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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I. CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II. EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III. SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV. EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V. NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include:

- Middle East & South Asia Review
- Inter-Arab Affairs
- Islamic Affairs
- Palestinian Affairs
- OPEC Affairs
- South Asian Regional Affairs
- Arab Africa
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VI. LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

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TALKS ON MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES 'SUBSTANTIVE'

LD160014 Moscow TASS in English 2050 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Geneva May 15 TASS -- Discussions in all groups -- medium-range missiles, outer space, and strategic offensive armaments were intensively under way during the past week at the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear and space armaments.

Most substantive is the work which is carried out within the group on medium-range missiles, the problem which is the most advanced from the viewpoint of possibilities of attaining a concrete accord before the end of the current year. Two draft treaties, the American and the compromise Soviet, on the table of negotiations have brought the sides close to producing a joint draft treaty on elimination of the medium-range missiles of the USSR and of the United States in Europe in accordance with the formula for solution of this question agreed upon in Reykjavik.

NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP SESSION ENDS

LD151458 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Oslo May 15 TASS -- The two-day session of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group at defence ministers' level ended in the Norwegian city of Stavanger today.

The discussion of the initiatives proposed by the Soviet Union to eliminate Soviet and U.S. medium- and shorter-range missiles in Europe occupied the central place on the agenda.

Judging by a communique issued at the close of the session, the ministers failed to work out a unified position with regard to shorter-range missiles.

As far as medium-range missiles are concerned, the defence ministers demanded that the Soviet-U.S. understanding reached at summit level in Reykjavik be changed in the part specifying that the Soviet Union and the United States would each keep 100 nuclear warheads on the missiles of this class outside Europe.

According to press reports, the discussion of the question of the North Atlantic alliance's stand on nuclear missiles will be continued at a session of the NATO council at foreign ministers' level. The session will be held in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, on June 11-12.

NEW ROUND OF SOVIET-U.S. TEST BAN TALKS BEGIN

LD180855 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2010 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Geneva, 18 May (TASS) -- A new round of Soviet-U.S. talks between experts on issues relating to halting nuclear tests begins here today. Previous rounds have shown that the U.S. side is not committed as yet to achieving an accord on beginning full-scale talks on completely banning nuclear tests. The USSR delegation is headed by Andronik Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy.

'TOP PRIORITY' ON OBJECTIONS TO U.S. ARMS PROPOSAL

LD161417 Moscow in English to North America 0100 GMT 16 May 87

["Top Priority" program, presented by Vladimir Pozner, with Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov of the United States of America and Canada Institute, Moscow]

[Text] How do you do ladies and gentlemen, this is Vladimir Pozner presenting "Top Priority". With me on the panel are doctors Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov of Moscow's United States and Canada Studies Institute. The subject today is one indeed of top priority, and it concerns the preliminary Soviet reaction to the American draft treaty on long-range nuclear weapons that was presented recently in Geneva. The spokesman for the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Gerasimov, last Tuesday made a statement to the effect that in the preliminary, at least, assessment of the American offer there were five areas that the Soviet Union found difficult to accept. Let's put it that way. Here are the five points, and I would like us to examine them as we talk today: Number one, that the proposed American treaty departed from several of the agreements that were reached in Reykjavik, and that is in particular the understanding that an initial 50 percent cut in strategic weapons would be made in 5 years -- that was the Reykjavik agreement -- in the American document it is 7 years. Point number one. Point number two, that the American document sets subsidiary limits on specific classes of weapons which would force the Soviet Union to restructure its nuclear forces, a step that would be detrimental to Soviet security, said Mr Gerasimov. The third point, or the third objection, let's put it that way, is that Washington failed to included a cut in long range sea-launched cruise missiles in this draft treaty. Four: The absence in the document of provisions for further talks about the eventual elimination of all strategic offensive weapons. And fifth, last, but certainly not least in the objections is the lack of any link between cuts in strategic weapons and curbs on the development of space weapons. Dr Bogdanov.

[Bogdanov] I have a feeling it's the middle of the spring isn't it?

[Pozner] Yes it is.

[Bogdanov] And I'm sorry to say that I have a spring mood, and what does it mean to have a spring mood?

[Pozner] Means to be optimistic.

[Bogdanov] Means to be optimistic, you know. Let me say something which may sound optimistic. Number one, we have in Geneva just a series of talks; we have INF, we have shorter range, we have battlefield weapons. Now we have an American draft treaty on strategic with all the drawbacks, with all the things you have mentioned. It's a process which has already begun, that's what makes me optimistic. You know, you have INF and you have strategics. Now, I would like very much to look at all that, with all my criticism; really I share that view that it's not satisfactory for us, it's not even fair, and what as a professional I would rather worry on all five points you have mentioned. But one, but one is of especial worry to me, that we will have to restructure our strategic forces. And that's very old story Vladimir...you remember...

[Pozner] Way back.

[Bogdanov] Yeah, you have very, you have a (?false) symmetry. It's like an apple and like an orange. You cannot compare that. You have to find out some way [word indistinct] to build up a common ground.

But what is really optimistic is that the process has begun, and I believe that if you get an agreement on INF and if you have a framework statement of intentions, whatever you call it, which will be annexed, or that will be a leading document which will precede the INF agreement, then of course we can talk about summit meeting in a very serious term, as a meeting which will lead to the signing of those two documents. And I would appeal to my American colleagues at the other end to be more reasonable and let me be again optimistic and to think that the draft that they have laid down on the table in Geneva, it's not the last word of the American delegation.

[Pozner] Let me pick up on that. Dr Plekhanov, the American officials who put that draft on the table last week said, and I quote, that it was unlikely to win Soviet acceptance but that it was being presented to show Washington's willingness to press ahead with negotiations on strategic weapons despite the obstacles. In your opinion, as an expert in this field, do you think that indeed this draft does reflect an American desire to press ahead even though there are things that are not perhaps quite what the Soviet side would like?

[Plekhanov] Well, one has to be on the inside of the negotiations to give a definite answer to that, because the subject is too delicate, but, being on the outside it's too early to tell, because some of those positions in the draft are very old really. Old monkey wrenches.

[Pozner] Like which?

[Plekhanov] Well, like this provision to restructure which Dr Bogdanov referred to, or this failure to link the cuts in offensive weapons with...

[Pozner, interrupting] With curbs on space weapons?

[Plekhanov] Curbs on the research...

[Pozner, interrupting] The research, yes.

[Plekhanov] ...on space weapons. (?Second), the idea that no submarine-launched, rather sea-launched cruise missiles are to be included is another step back. And well, the fact that the United States is prepared to negotiate cuts in strategic weapons is in itself a good thing, but the problem is in the specific conditions that they are prepared to accept. If this is indeed not the last word then there is a possibility of a process that could lead to some framework or some agreement later on. But at this point I think it's too early to tell.

[Pozner] Excuse me. Do I take your tone as being somewhat less optimistic than the spring weather tone that Dr Bogdanov demonstrated?

[Plekhanov] Well, I don't know. That's for you to judge whether it sounds less optimistic.

[Pozner] Well to me it does. Now am I right? Correct me if I'm wrong.

[Plekhanov] Maybe I'm simply misinformed, I don't know, but to me I'm kind of, have a kind of a guarded judgement on what has been presented.

[Pozner] Dr Bogdanov?

[Bogdanov] You know, I am of the firm belief that the American side wants an agreement on strategic...

[Pozner, interrupting] Does want on agreement.

[Bogdanov] Does want an agreement.

[Pozner] Yes.

[Bogdanov] But the problem is what kind of agreement. You know our problem is that they always want some agreement from us at our expense, you know. But this is the time when we should meet half way, that we should accomodate each other. And after Reykjavik the position is absolutely clear. You have just to make some final, difficult, very difficult I admit, but some final touches. For instance Vladimir, we have explained to our American colleagues what we mean by laboratory research. We have made it absolutely clear what we mean by that, and it's much larger than to have it within just literally speaking laboratory walls. In a brief nutshell, you can research, but except into space. You can research it on the ground. You can test something on the ground, but except in the outer space. And if the American side is really willing to explore and really willing to find out common ground for a settlement, we're open. It's a chance. It's a real chance.

[Pozner] I'd like to throw you a curve, which is as you know an American baseball expression. In America, baseball begins in spring, and now that we've begun to play baseball in the Soviet Union I think it's fair to use that expression.

[Plekhanov] Yeah, Yeah.

[Pozner] The curve I want to throw you is as follows. Not too long ago one of the leading Soviet journalists, in a local newspaper, raised the issue of INF, and what he said was that while he felt that General Secretary Gorbachev's initiative of 28 February was a great thing, the idea of taking out all the medium-range missiles, he questioned the deployment of the SS-20's to begin with. He said why did we deploy them and was it not a mistake to deploy them way back when, and we have to work so hard to get them out along with the American missiles. Now the question I want to ask you is this: Might it not seem to be a mistake to tie cuts, major cuts, in strategic nuclear offensive weapons to curbs on the testing of space weapons? That is to say, might there not be argument that it is so important to cut strategic weapons what we should not couple the two, we should not link them. What would be your answer to that?

[Plekhanov] Well, I think that this linkage is of vital importance, because the offensive strategic weapons and the ABM systems which are now being discussed and research are organically linked with each other. The argument has been made by quite a few experts on the American side and in other countries that the SDI, if it can work, if it can possibly be constructed, can work only as an addition to an offensive potential, to an offensive strategic force which would be used for first-strike purposes. And then the SDI, an ABM system with space elements, would supposedly work as a defense against a crippled opponent, an opponent which which has so little wherewithal left that even a very leaky shield would be effective. So, the questions of offensive and defensive systems are linked in the very nature of things. They were linked back in 1972 when the SALT Treaty, SALT I Treaty and the ABM Treaty were signed, and I think there is a lot of wisdom in insisting on that linkage. Besides, you know there is a problem: If we simply give a green light to this research in space weapons will we not be opening a door to a radically new avenue of the arms race? The strategic offensive weapons are here with us. They are bad enough. There are too many of them, but they reflect an earlier stage in the arms race.

Now, by concentrating on just the offensive weapons and giving the go-ahead to the race in so-called defensive weapons wouldn't we be very shortsighted and oriented toward a short-term, quote success end quote? In the arms race, in the history of the arms race, there have been several decisions of this kind, when weapons which already exist and which are getting obsolete very fast have been easily banned while no restrictions were put on a new generation of weapons. That's what kept the old arms going and I think that we should put a stop to it.

[Pozner] Dr Bogdanov, how do you feel about all this?

[Bogdanov] Yes, I feel almost the same, but I would like to make one comment: Flexibility is also needed in that case too. Flexibility doesn't mean that you sacrifice your principles, you know, and I quite agree that you have a new conceptual problem, which is the link between offensive and defensive weapons. When they were deployed in Europe. [?old history], that was quite different. You had to deal with the same category of weapons, maybe bigger, maybe smaller, three warheads, one warhead, but basically it's all the same. Now you have to quite differently think you know. You have a conceptual change which may bring you about a very drastic change in the whole strategic stability. That's what worries me. But at the same time of course it doesn't mean that you're so caught up that you have no flexible, you know, flexible, reasonable approach to that problem. Which by the way, we do demonstrate, we do...

[Pozner, interrupting] All right. Let me ask you as time begins to run out on us -- and I'd like a brief answer, if you can make it, like yes or no, I'd appreciate that -- if the Americans do not demonstrate any flexibility in as far as curbing anything at all in the space weapons programs, would you say that that means there will be no agreement on strategic offensive, on long-range strategic offensive weapons?

[Bogdanov] If I were on the decision-making level I would not come any agreement with the Americans if they don't curb space weapons.

[Pozner] What about you?

[PLekhanov] Neither would I.

[Pozner] All right. Now, my final question today: the sublimits in the American proposal that would force the Soviet Union to restructure its nuclear arsenal to be mirror-like vis-a-vis the American arsenal, which I think is virtually impossible in the sense of cost and in fact in the sense of commonsense. Here again, if the Americans insist on that particular point would you say that that would mean failure in reaching an agreement?

[Bogdanov] I'm afraid that the golden time for the Americans, when we were imitating them, has come to an end. That's my answer.

[Pozner] Right. Well, in that case, I think we can still be optimistic provided there is flexibility on both sides. Am I correct?

[Plekhanov] Yeah, of course.

[Bogdanov] Yes, sure.

[Pozner] However, we should also be realistic in assessing the proposals, the draft offered by the United States, and I think we've been quite realistic today. And on that note let me wish our listeners good listening, and invite them to join us a week from today at the same time for "Top Priority."

TV DOCUMENTARY DEPICTS 'NUCLEAR THREAT'

LD160926 [Editorial report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1410 GMT on 15 May shows a 30-minute documentary film entitled "Peace to the European Home" written and introduced in the studio by Boris Kalyagin, showing the nuclear threat hanging over Europe, reviewing the European disarmament debate over the last decade or so, outlining Soviet arms initiatives, criticizing the U.S. Administration and its NATO allies for pursuing a policy of confrontation and outlining the benefits of peaceful cooperation in Europe.

In his introduction, Kalyagin says: "Hello there, comrades. The issue raised in the film we are about to show -- the reduction of nuclear armaments in Europe -- has today become perhaps the most topical and important problem in international politics. This is thanks to the initiative of our country. We have proposed that the European home be rid of a considerable proportion of the nuclear arsenals that have acumulated in it. Moreover, we have at the same time tried to consider the wishes of the United States and its West European allies -- in particular, President Reagan's so-called zero option. We have proposed a plan for ridding Europe of a whole class of nuclear missile weaponry -- medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles. A rather strange picture is emerging, however. No sooner do we take steps to meet the West halfway than the West immediately seems to lose interest in its own proposals and begins to erect fresh obstacles in the way of an agreement.

"It turns out that the Western leaders are not interested in reducing nuclear armaments in Europe, but in equalizing their levels -- in other words, in building up their missiles. One has to ask what sort of disarmament that is!

"Our latest initiative regarding operational and tactical missiles was undertaken after the film was finished, and the film does not deal with it. It is possible that some new nuances will emerge during negotiations. But the main thing -- and the film reflects this -- remains unchanged. We are striving to achieve genuine security for Europe and to switch to radical reductions in all types of armaments and armed forces on the continent, with due regard for the security interests of all parties. A unique opportunity for this has now arisen. Whether this historical opportunity will be used depends on the stance of Washington and its NATO partners."

Over opening shots contrasting the tourist sights and cultural monuments of the capitals of Europe with Greenham Common's cruise missiles and war games on British soil, the commentary said that "the spirit of enmity and estrangement still hovers over the continent." "The Land of the Soviets is presented as enemy number one." Shots of Western military hardware were accompanied by the statement that Europe was "over-saturated" with weapons. The film said that Europe was too small and fragile to survive the "catastrophe" that the use of military force would bring.

The film recalled the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, calling it a "European peace charter." "Helsinki saw the birth of the hope that enmity and mistrust could be overcome, that relations between countries with different social systems could be built on the principles of detente."

From shots of the Helsinki conference and swaying corn fields, the film cut to shots of Weinberger attending a NATO meeting and military hardware: "Far from everyone in the West found this policy to their liking. The Final Act was signed by the United States, but the American administration did not want to reckon with the agreement it had approved. The White House called detente a one-way street. In Washington, particular irritation was caused by the principle of observing equal security for all states. It was against this most important provision that a blow was struck." In deciding in 1979 to deploy cruise missiles and Pershings in Europe, "the United States and its NATO allies intended to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union -- an "unrealistic" objective. The result of the cruise and Pershing deployments was to make the Western Europeans the "nuclear hostages of Washington." The population of Europe was given the role of "target for a nuclear counterstrike." Clips from a British film showing the aftermath of a nuclear blast over St Paul's Cathedral were shown.

The film showed protests in Britain and other countries against the "cruise death." There were shots of Reagan and Gorbachev during the Geneva summit; of the security and disarmament conference in Stockholm. The Stockholm conference showed that mutually acceptable solutions could be found "if one is guided by a new approach to international affairs."

Gorbachev's proposal to eliminate nuclear weapons totally by the beginning of the 21st century was noted as an example of the "new thinking." Reykjavik showed the reality of the Soviet proposal for a nonnuclear world: The USSR and United States "practically reached an accord on the elimination of strategic nuclear armaments and medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe." The two leaders were shown during the Reykjavik summit.

The film showed children sending appeals for peace to Gorbachev and Reagan. "But the children's appeals do not reach the U.S. President."

"It seems that certain Western European leaders have become so accustomed to nuclear weapons that they cannot imagine their existence without it. The deliberately false argument that the scrapping of nuclear weapons would upset the balance in favour of the socialist countries, which allegedly have superiority in conventional weapons, was put into play." In Budapest, the Warsaw Pact states called for cuts in armed forces and armaments from the Atlantic to the Urals. A clip from the Warsaw Pact meeting was shown. "What is missing that would allow these radical proposals to be adopted? Evidently, the main thing -- the political will on the part of the governments of Western countries. Some are hampered by the fact that mistrust has taken root, others regard as paramount the profits of the military-industrial complex, and still others calculate that the arms race will weaken the Soviet Union. But these intentions are deluded.

"The interests of all peoples suffer as a result of the arms race. And the curbing of the arms race would not only reduce the military threat, but would open the floodgates to wide-ranging, peaceful cooperation." Footage of an amphibious landing exercise was shown. The film showed the launch of the dry-cargo vessel Kemerovo, built for the USSR in Finland. The launch of the MV Dalnerechensk was also shown as an example of economic cooperation. The film recalled Soviet-French space cooperation and showed film of the Bolshoy's London tour and of the recent Moscow forum for the survival of humanity, with a clip of Gorbachev's speech. Over shots of peace demonstrations, the film said that the arms race was the "supreme evil on our planet." "It has a large number of influential supporters in the West. And yet, even there they are an insignificant minority."

"Today, thanks to Soviet initiatives, there is a real opportunity to rid the continent of Europe of a significant part of its nuclear burden. In line with the Reykjavik accord, we have proposed in the next 5 years to scrap all U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe. This historic opportunity must not be missed." The choice facing Europe was "peaceful coexistence or nonexistence." Over shots of tourists and pigeons, the film concluded that Europe could set an example of "new political thinking -- the strengthening of detente." "Peaceful competition and cooperation, not enmity and confrontation, will provide the European home with security."

SISHLIN REVIEWS WEST'S STANCES ON INF ACCORD

LD171040 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0250 GMT 17 May 87

[Political observer Nikolay Shishlin commentary]

[Text] International discussions are focussing on the problems of breaking through to realistic, practical steps to curtail the arms race and, in particular on the problems of eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. We are now discovering that the difference in the Western countries' stances is extremely great, not only among the countries as such but also within these countries.

Let us take the United States. It is as if the White House and the U.S. secretary of state advocate with a greater or lesser degree of certainty the double-zero option, that is, zero for medium-range missiles and zero for operational and tactical missiles. But if you take U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger, then the latter is saying that he advocated zero for medium-range missiles but that he by no means favors a zero for operational and tactical missiles. There are people who are even further to the right of Weinberger. Or, take for example the recent visit to the United States by West German Vice Chancellor Genscher. There Genscher quite definitely advocated the double-zero option both for medium-range and for operational and tactical missiles. At the same time, if you take FRG Chancellor Kohl, then he definitely advocates zero only for medium-range missiles.

So far as France's position is concerned, well, I think that the listeners know very well that its stance was revealed during the visit by French Prime Minister Chirac. Basically, the French consider that without nuclear weapons European security would be vulnerable. This position is, of course, groundless, unproven, illogical, but nevertheless that is the position.

It is as if the coming 6 weeks comprising June and the remaining days of May will determine the speed of movement toward a possible solution of this problem. At that time it will be possible to reply with greater certainty to the question of whether it will prove possible to reach in 1987 an accord on medium-range missiles in Europe and thus break through to new horizons as a whole in the approach to disarmament problems.

After all, a solution on medium-range missiles would be valuable as the first example of specific practical steps on disarmament and as a very strong stimulus for further solutions in this whole particular and vital area, without whose resolution it is impossible to establish trust and impossible to ensure a radical improvement in the world situation.

So, one way or another, in the middle of 1987 we are able to say that the opportunities for achieving an agreement are increasing. It would, of course, be extremely sad if these opportunities of the year were missed.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS BLOC INITIATIVES

PM141507 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Conference in Moscow"]

[Text] A conference of deputy foreign ministers from the Belorussian SSR, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the USSR, the Ukranian SSR, and the CSSR was held in Moscow 13 May to examine questions concerning joint initiatives by the socialist countries at the United Nations on the creation of an all-embracing system of international peace and security.

The conference was held in a businesslike comradely atmosphere.

A press briefing was held following the conclusion of the conference.

Petrovskiy Addresses Conference

LD132046 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- A conference of deputy ministers of foreign affairs of Belorussia, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the USSR, the Ukraine and Czechoslovakia was held here today. It studied questions connected with the joint initiative of socialist countries in the United Nations Organisation on the creation of an all-embracing system of international peace and security.

Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR Vladimir Petrovskiy addressed a press conference after the meeting.

Participants in the meeting, he said, noted with satisfaction that the question of a comprehensive system of international peace and security is not only on the agenda of the forthcoming 42nd session of the U.S. General Assembly but already has become the subject of discussions and consultations between states. The current exchange of opinions is focused on the main idea of a new political thinking, namely on how to ensure security in all spheres of international relations through political means and efforts of everyone. Much importance is attached to the question of replacing nuclear deterrent with a political and legal one, of setting up a worldwide security mechanism in a non-violent, demilitarized world and of turning the U.S. into an effective political mechanism which will help prevent wars.

All this is evidence of the timeliness and importance of this initiative, V. Petrovskiy continued. The world community rejects nuclear war and violence in general and believes that the arms race is depriving humanity of a possibility to arrest the sliding down to a nuclear catastrophe.

It understands that in the present-day conditions there is only one way to guaranteed security, a political way, and that the security of each of the countries is unthinkable without equal security for all. It is natural that the concept of all-embracing, universal security, like all the new notions, is coming up against stubborn resistance on the part of those who are accustomed to think in categories of military might and power pressure.

In these conditions it is especially important today that the broadest circles of international public come to fully realize the urgency of the task of creating all the necessary conditions for the survival of humanity, for the building of a nuclear-free world.

CEMA NUCLEAR POWER COMMISSION HOLDS SESSION

LD132133 Moscow TASS in English 1947 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Bucharest May 13 TASS -- The 16th session of the intergovernmental commission on overall coordination of cooperation of the CEMA countries concerned and Yugoslavia in the realization of the agreement on multilateral production specialization and cooperation and reciprocal deliveries of equipment for nuclear power plants was held here. It was attended by delegations of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Cuba, Poland, Romania, the USSR, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Participants in the session analyzed a wide range of questions connected with a further development of cooperation of the countries-signatories to the agreement of June 28, 1979, in the sphere of nuclear power engineering, the construction and exploitation of nuclear power plants, as well as the raising of their safety.

The commission heard a report of Academician Valeriy Legasov on scientific problems connected with the development of nuclear power with due account for the targets set by a comprehensive program of scientific and technological progress of CEMA member countries for the period ending in 2000, and approved measures for a further raising of the safety of nuclear power plants which had been built and are under construction in the CEMA member countries. [Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian on 15 May 87 on page 5 of its Morning Edition notes that the session was conducted by I.S. Silayev, standing chairman of the commission and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.]

FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS SEMINAR HELD

LD052117 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1517 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 5 May (TASS) -- The USSR's foreign trade turnover is due to double in terms of 1985 prices by the year 2000, said Ivan Ivanov, deputy chairman of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers. He was speaking at an international seminar, organized by the USSR Chamber of Trade and Industry and the International Scientific Research Institute of Problems of Administration which opened here today. The seminary is discussing specific ways to solve problems connected with the implementation of measures to raise the effectiveness of the USSR's foreign economic relations. Taking part in its work are representatives of foreign economic departments, industrial ministries and production associations of the USSR, and leading economic organizations in Bulgaria, Hungary, GDR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

The fundamental restructuring of the Soviet system of administering foreign economic relations, it was noted at the seminar, presupposes further coordination of the work of Soviet ministries, departments, and industrial enterprises participating in the implementation of export-import operations, and the development of new forms of cooperation with firms and associations abroad. Yevgeniy Pitovranov, chairman of the board of the USSR Chamber of Trade and Industry, reported on the creation within the framework of the chamber of a Consultative Financial Autonomy Center which would offer Soviet economic organizations information services on the regulations governing the Soviet Union's foreign economic activity, on international and foreign private and civil law, on the customs and tax legislation of foreign states, the practice of concluding foreign-trade contracts, the specialization and coordination of production, and the creation and activity of joint enterprises and international associations and organizations. The participants in the seminar will acquaint themselves with the work of the economic organizations of a number of the CEMA member-countries in improving the administration of foreign economic activity and the creation of joint enterprises with Western countries.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS'

LD152354 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 15 May 87

["International Situation -- Questions and Answers" program presented by Konstantin Patsyuk, with Viktor Filatov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA special correspondent; Rodomir Bogdanov, deputy director of the USSR Academy of Sciences United States and Canada Institute; "colleague" Sergey Pravdin; and Kazbek Basiyev, Middle East correspondent]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

[Patsyuk] The new Soviet peace initiative is a subject that is mentioned in all of our listeners' letters. Matters of disarmament, especially the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles in Europe, interest Comrade Shilov from the village of Kondrashkino, Kashirskiy rayon, Voronezh Oblast; Vasiliy Petrovich Portnov from Chkalovskiy, Tajik SSR; and many others. They would like to know what problems are involved in eliminating these missiles, and how realistic it is to achieve an agreement. Of course, they also would like to know where things stand today at the Geneva talks; that is, where the problem is under discussion. I'll ask Professor Radomir Georgeyevich Bogdanov, doctor of historical sciences, deputy director of the USSR Academy of Sciences United States and Canada Institute, to answer these questions. Please.

[Bogdanov] History has decreed that Geneva should be the location for many remarkable events, and, it must be said, mainly events of a positive sort. Many peace initiatives, upon which people's fates depended to a considerable extent, have been given birth and developed in Geneva. It would probably be no exaggeration to say that the previous talks that have taken place in this city have never been of such decisive importance for the fate of all mankind. First of all, they are taking place during the missiles age -- the space age -- a period when our planet is literally groaning under the weight of the stockpiled weapons, when an absolutely new and deadly threat is being drawn up to transform space into an arena for fighting and a new source of danger for our planet.

I would like to remind our listeners of some factual data concerning medium-range missiles. The United States now has 380 of these missiles in Western Europe, of which 108 are Pershings, rather Pershing-2's, and 272 cruise missiles. The Soviet Union has 355 missiles in its European component -- 243 missiles known as the SS-20's and 112 SS-4's. As you know, the deployment of such missiles has ceased in the Soviet Union.

In addition, there are Soviet operational and tactical missiles in Europe; that is, missiles with a range of 500-1,000 km and tactical nuclear weapons with a range of 500 km or less. It is important to draw our listeners' attention to the fact that the moaning now heard in the West about the alleged unilateral disarmament of the West resulting from the Soviet initiatives is devoid of any truth.

Some additional information: Apart from the Pershing-2 and cruise missiles, the United States has 640 carrier aircraft near the European Continent. These aircraft are capable of making a deep strike into the territory of the European socialist countries and a considerable part of the European USSR.

In addition, the 6th and 2d operational fleets of the U.S. Navy are in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic. Approximately 300 carrier-based attack aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons are based on their aircraft carriers.

Finally, sea-based cruise missiles with a range of up to 2,600 km continue to be supplied to these fleets. Of course, if these are to be entered into the calculations, the Armed Forces of the NATO member states have no less than 7,000 nuclear warheads in the West European zone.

[Patsyuk] What is now happening in Geneva? More details, please, Radomir Georiyevich.

[Bogdanov] The USSR delegation had been given instructions on 23 April to immediately embark upon elaborating specific accords on medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles with the U.S. delegation. The Soviet draft treaty on medium-range missiles is on the table. This draft is not an end in itself: an agreement on medium-range missiles, in our view, would also secure progress in other aspects of the talks, and, objectively, all the necessary conditions are there for this. These conditions have been created by the important accords achieved by the U.S. and Soviet leaders in Reykjavik, and also by the recent Soviet initiatives in all areas under review at the Geneva talks.

I would like to remind our listeners that in a conversation with Secretary of State Shultz, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev expressed his readiness to include in an agreement on medium-range missiles a pledge by the Soviet Union to simultaneously eliminate its operational and tactical missiles in Europe, and to hold talks on those missiles deployed in the eastern part of our country and on U.S. territory. A majority of statesmen and politicians and the general public has constructively received the Soviet proposals on disarmament.

There is, however, a paradox: Those people who were most given to bemoaning the danger of nuclear weapons are now also demonstrating alarm. Much conjecture is being tossed about to frighten people and new fears are being whipped up. It is vexing that once again they are confusing themselves and the public with suspicions that they claim Moscow has conjured up.

We are not against having our new initiatives subjected to serious discussion by competent and responsible authorities. That is natural. But we are against having worn-out stereotypes advanced regarding alleged Soviet intentions to undermine and then break up Western Europe, and then to occupy it. Hence comes the faulty logic of some Western leaders, that the idea of ridding Europe of its nuclear arsenals is harmful. Existing nuclear weapon systems have never before in postwar history been destroyed; they have only been limited. Now they could be destroyed, and this will be a very important step on the way toward a nuclear-free world. It is important that strategic stability be strengthened.

[Patsyuk] What is lacking under these conditions? What is the key to solving the problem? What do you think about that?

[Bogdanov] Given a display of political will on the part of the West, and first and foremost by the United States, the Soviet proposals for eliminating medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe could be implemented in the near future, and could secure a turning point in the world situation that the peoples of the world await in hope.

[Patsyuk] Units of the Soviet military continent are in their 8th year in Afghanistan. Certainly, from time to time one should return to discussion about how and why they are there, and I don't think that our conversation today on this topic will be the last.

The editorial office has received a lot of reaction to the recent address by our guest, the special correspondent of the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, Colonel Viktor Ivanovich Filatov. Specifically, Comrades Zhurev from Kalinin and Petrova from Novosibirsk write that the author of the address wrongly compared events in Afghanistan with events from the time of World War II, drawing a parallel between them. So now, Viktor Ivanovich, what is your view on this?

[Filatov] I don't think there is any contradiction here. At that time, too, we made errors in terms of our conduct on the eve of the attack on us by fascist Germany; we speak openly of those. Of course, you learn from your mistakes. But having posed the question this way in the letters, let's clarify the situation somewhat.

Just recall the history of the struggle against the Basmak Movement [basmachestvo] in our Central Asia. Incidentally, the last Basmak group was recorded somewhere in 1941. Why did this struggle last so long? Among other things, because there was a reliable rear backing the Basmaki: The territory of Afghanistan, where the imperialist powers, first and foremost Britain, supplied them with arms and ammunition, and where they took cover from the strikes by the Red Army. The very same thing, I think, is happening today around Afghanistan.

[Patsyuk] How does all that affect us? Could you give us more detail, please?

[Filatov] Here I would like to say something about the documents and facts of the period when we sent in the limited contingent in Afghanistan. After the April Revolution of 1978, the Republic was subjected to a fierce onslaught from external enemies. This onslaught became stronger particularly when, in the spring of 1979, U.S. imperialism lost its positions in Iran. Military camps were deployed on Pakistan's territory to train military formations. These military formations were immediately redeployed to Afghanistan, to carry out combat operations against the Republic. The country's leadership, with the aim of repelling the imperialist aggression from without, requested that the Soviet Union furnish urgent moral, political, economic, and military assistance.

From the point of view of international law, this assistance is legal and competent. It is totally in accord with the spirit and letter of the Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighborliness, and Cooperation signed by the two countries in December 1978. It is also in full accord with Article 51 of the UN Charter, which envisions the inalienable right of states to collective and individual self-defense for the purposes of rebuffing aggression.

In the light of the events of March and April on our souther borders, these words from the UN Charter article relate not only to Afghanistan, but also to our country, and now, again in the light of events of 8 March and 9 April, we should ask ourselves, what would have happened on our southern border if, even with the existence of our military contingent on Afghan territory, attacks had been made on our territory, our people died, and our houses had been destroyed?

In the light of these events, my comparison between our soldiers and internationalists and the soldiers of the Great Patriotic War does not seem so lame. I think generally that in our internationalist soldiers in Afghanistan we have today a new, young wave of frontliners. That is how we have to see them.

[Patsyuk] The listeners I mentioned insist that precise figures be given for our fallen internationalist soldiers in Afghanistan.

[Filatov] In my talk last time, I tried to say why figures on this are not published. To date thousands and thousands of soldiers and officers in the Afghan Army have been killed and thousands of civilians, completely innocent people, have died in Afghanistan. I repeat: thousands, There are not total casualty figures yet but we have names.

Recently the Plakat publishing house issued portraits of Heroes of the Soviet Union who received this title when carrying out their internationalist duty in Afghanistan. They include Fedor Pugachev, Vasiloy Shcherbakov, Aleksandr Dymakov -- all named. Literally at the moment the same publisher has issued portraits of privates, sergeants, and warrant officers decorated with orders and medals for exemplary execution of their internationalist duty in Afghanistan. Almost every day, in one way or another, the newspapers turn their attention to events in Afghanistan, write and give the names of the soldiers defending our southern frontier. Yes, there are no total figures yet, but there are specific names. No one is forgotten, no one will be deprived of the attention, love, and honor they deserve. Today our young people compare their actions against the fears of the internationalist servicemen in Afghanistan.

[Patsyuk] So, again no figures. How does the openness [glasnost] that we talk so much about come in here?

[Filatov] Who in our time is against openness? But is this openness boundless? Particularly if we are talking about state affairs, defense, and military matters. Whether we want it or not, state secrets exist. Whether we like it or not, there are military secrets. Here openness means that we say: This is a state secret; this is a military secret.

[Patsyuk] Yet, what is a military secret, at a time when combat operations are under way, while as yet there is not complete peace in Afghanistan, where so far there is a regime of reconcilation, and where our military contingent is?

[Filatov] I think that under these conditions a military secret is everything that the commanders who are responsible for the outcome of combat operations say is a military secret. If it is necessary for the successful outcome of the combat operations that today we should not publish some figures or other, some numbers or other, then that is how it should be.

[Patsyuk] And the last one. Comrade Zhurev asks: Why are our lads brought back on the quiet, and virtually buried by night? He means those who perish in Afghanistan.

[Filatov] The answer to the question posed by Comrade Zhurev is to be found in other letters we have received. I have before me a letter signed by members of the Deryugin, Fokin, Kolokolchikov, and Trusov families. The letter has come from Gorkiy. It was written by Anna Alekseyevna Deryuygina at the request of the families mentioned. She is a member of the CPSU and works at the Institute of Light Industry. She is an engineer and a labor veteran. Her son is serving in the Army. This is what she writes: For some reason there are only sons in our families, but they don't let us down. They are fulfilling their military duty with honor. In June 1985 the Fokin family's son Aleksey perished in Afghanistan while carrying out his internationalist duty. In Afghanistan he had taken part in combat operations. For courage and valor, Junior Sergeant Folkin was posthumously decorated with the Order of the Red Star. The whole town was there to bury him; there was a meeting and an orchestra. With the letter there is a photograph of the funeral. A salvo was fired at the cemetery in honor of the fallen servicemen. So where is it otherwise? This must be looked into. [passage omitted]

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD171945 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 17 May 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program presented by Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, all-union radio commentator; with Valentin Sergeyevich Zorin, political observer of all-union radio and television; and Vitaliy Ivanovich Kobysh, international affairs journalist]

[Text] [Levin] Hello, esteemed comrades. Although in our broadcasts of the "International Observers Roundtable" we primarily review events that have taken place in the current week, today we'll begin by looking a little way ahead. As you know, it was announced this week that Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of our party's Central Committee, is to visit Romania. This visit is of great interest from the point of view of the development of relations between the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, and from the point of view of the development of relations between all the states of the socialist community. It must be said that recently one has been able to note a considerable intensification of meetings, contacts, and talks.

Let us return to the events of this week. There was a conference of secretaries of Central Committees of the communist and workers' parties of the socialist countries who are engaged in dealing with questions of organizational party work. Delegations of the USSR Supreme Soviet -- one of them, which visited the DPRK, was led by Comrade Dolgikh, another delegation was led by Comrade Demichev and visited the People's Republic of Bulgaria. All these contacts, all these meetings, are to reveal more fully the potential of the community of socialist states -- for although we indeed have come a long way toward the development of socialist international relations, the possibilities are far from exhausted. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's recent visit to Czechoslovakia, for example, showed that. There is every reason to expect that Comrade Gorbachev's visit to Romania and his forthcoming talks with Comrade Ceausescu also will give a new boost to the development of relations between the Soviet Union and Socialist Romania, between our parties, and thereby will become one more element developing the socialist community.

[Kobysh] By way of confirming what you already have said, Viktor Nikolayevich, I would like to make two observations: First, I have just returned from Czechoslovakia and saw there with my own eyes, felt, and observed how deeply the Czechoslovak public, the Czechoslovak Communists, and the whole Czechoslovak people have taken in Comrade Gorbachev's visit, and how attentively the restructuring that is taking place in our country is being followed there -- attentively, closely, with the very greatest interest, and with enormous sympathy, I must tell you. That is one point. The second is that Comrade Honecker, as it has become known, has just sent personal messages to Netherlands Prime Minister Lubbers, to British Prime Minister Thatcher, and to Belgian Prime Minister Martens. The messages point out that Europe is now living through an especially crucial time. They state that the GDR retains in this sense its promise, agreed upon with the Soviet Union, under which once an accord has been reached on medium-range missiles, the operational and tactical missile complexes deployed in the GDR will be withdrawn. The idea of creating a corridor free of nuclear weapons in central Europe takes on a new significance precisely in light of the Soviet proposals on medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles. So you see with what vigor, what dynamism -- everything has been set in motion in the socialist world.

[Levin] Well, since you have mentioned the foreign policy activities of the socialist countries, one should, of course, recall that at the end of May -- as previously announced -- a session of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee is to be held; and we are firmly convinced that the community of socialist states will surely take another new step in developing the proposals aimed at ensuring stability in Europe and providing security. We act in a coordinated way. You mentioned, Vitaliy Ivanovich, that if a treaty is signed on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles, the operational and tactical missiles will be removed from the GDR. But that also applies to Czechoslovakia and the nuclear-free corridor about which Comrade Honecker speaks and which is also supported by Czechoslovakia. A week earlier, Jaruzelski's plan was made public, which develops this idea still further. In other words, indeed all the socialist countries now are actively and purposefully intent on solving, I would say, the most vital problems facing Europe. There is surely no more vital problem today than eliminating medium-range missiles, because all the searches for ways toward military detente in Europe have, as it were, become focused on this problem, and if this can be achieved, then, first, we'll have taken the first real step toward eliminating an entire type of nuclear armaments -- that's the first thing; and second, of course, this would give a powerful boost to all the negotiations.

[Zorin] Nikolay Ivanovich, I think that's a correct assessment, and not because medium-range missiles are more important than any of the other problems that are now being examined in Geneva, but because an agreement on this question is possibly the most practicable thing in the foreseeable future. We have come very close to solving this problem; and I wouldn't regard it as impossible; it may happen that one day these days of May 1987 will go down in the history books read by our grandchildren: They will study the moment when, for the first time after many decades of a continuous build-up of the arms race we succeeded in taking the first step backward -- succeeded in agreeing to eliminate one of the dangerous types of weapons, in this case, medium-range missiles. However, having said those very promising optimistic words, I at once must say a very big but: Yes, the possibility of such a solution, which is being discussed and technically prepared at this very time, while we talk at the roundtable, is great. But, at the same time, one cannot overlook the fact that the closer we get to implementing that possibility, the greater the difficulties and resistance on the American side. Whereas before the start of the talks the leaders in Washington were making statements that were, I would say, mainly unreservedly optimistic, now they are not only making rather different statements, but the U.S. delegation is piling up obstacles in the way of reaching an agreement. There are several, but I'll draw our listeners' attention to just one. This is the problem of the Pershing-2 missiles. The Pentagon has devised the trick of not removing the Pershings but modifying them. The missile has two stages that make it medium-range: take out one stage and the Pershing will now be a reduced-range missile [raketa organizchennoy dalnosti] instead of a medium-range missile [raketa sredney dalnosti]

The shrewdness of this lies in the fact that, in the first place, the whole infrastructure is retained. When they were installing Pershings in Europe, they set up launch facilities, approach roads, depots -- altogether, quite a complex infrastructure. If this same truncated Pershing remains, then the infrastructure will also stay put. In second place, as experts acknowledge, the reverse operation -- replacing the stage -- would only take 48 hours, and what's more, it could actually be done on the launch sites, without the need to take the missile anywhere to do this. So that's the removal of the Pershings: an obvious ruse.

[Levin] I think it is a ruse with a subplot. It explains why pressure on the United States now is being organized in Western Europe -- though I think here it's the Americans themselves who are organizing the pressure -- against eliminating the operational tactical missiles.

If we have the double zero, as the Soviet Union is proposing, zero medium-range missiles and zero operational and tactical missiles, then there's no place left at all for Pershings' even in its truncated form. In order to keep it, they are saying: No, let us take one thing at a time; let us take it gradually. Of course, we have to do one thing at a time; we must not set ourselves too large a task at the present time. But, at the same time, we must not, as the old proverb had it, turn a pig into a carp. The position of the socialist countries is unambiguous; but as far as the position of the West is concerned; it's not straightforward. Sometimes it's more positive, sometimes less positive, sometimes negative. Let us begin describing the position of the West by talking about France's position, since talks with French Prime Minister Chirac took place in Moscow this week, and in the course of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's conversations with Chirac, in the course of Comrade Ryzhkov's talks with Chirac, these questions were constantly being raised.

[Kobysh] Yes, the question was raised about the fact that Soviet-French cooperation is of enormous, if not key, significance for the establishment of European peace. Well, it was said at the same time that we are far from satisfied with France's position at present, notably on the nuclear problem and questions of medium-range missiles: that it seems to us a strange position. That is the truth.

[Levin] Yes, unfortunately it is true. I say unfortunately because one would like to see France numbered among those states that are actively helping to solve the problems of military detente rather than making those problems worse. But we know France proceeds from the premise that nuclear weapons are a guarantee of peace -- a position that demonstrates, from our point of view, absolute incompetence.

[Kobysh] What is nuclear deterrence in our time? It amounts, in general, to the perpetuation of the existence of nuclear weapons as a permanent fixture, forever. I wish the French who so hotly advocate the idea of nuclear weapons would go to Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Chernobyl and see what it means -- then they might become a little less enthusiastic. They might think that something else should be used for deterrence, reason first of all, and the human factor.

[Levin] These are very serious aspects, very serious. But in connection with the talks that have been held in Moscow with French Prime Minister Chirac, I think we can say that to expect that after this visit the head of the French Government would at once radically alter his government's approach to nuclear problems, to the problems of nuclear aramaments, would probably be naive.

[Kobysh] Probably!

[Levin] Nevertheless, the dialogue did take place, and that dialogue indisputably has been useful. Why useful? We concurred on certain issues. On a few questions we were able to make headway. We now have a better and more precise idea of the position of the French side on the given issue; we've obtained an exposition....

[Kobysh, interrupting] At first hand.

[Levin] At first hand, from an authoritative source. That's useful. We see that dialogue, an exchange of opinions, even in those cases where it does not go very smoothly, does have a noticeable effect on development.

Now, in this connection -- I don't want to make a direct link between the stance recently adopted by Britain on the question of nuclear weapons and medium-range missiles and operational tactical missiles with Margaret Thatcher's visit to the Soviet Union....

[Kobysh] But it's Britain that's been the first among the leading Western countries to declare that it supports both zero options -- in other words, our proposal on medium-range missiles and our proposal on operational and tactical missiles.

[Levin] Let us take a look, then, at the position of the other European states.

[Kobysh] I would begin with something that one cannot fail to mention: the position of Bonn. At the moment, Bonn is the main factor in holding back NATO's decision on medium-range missiles. Now in Stavanger, in Norway, where the session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group has been taking place, this position on the part of the FRG has emerged clearly. We know that Bonn sent envoys to various capitals of the leading NATO countries to lobby against a decision being made on medium-range missiles. It has become known that when it was announced that Britain had made a decision on the two zeros at once -- both on medium-range missiles and on operational and tactical missiles -- it came as a shock to Bonn, because it was to London that they's sent their main group of these envoy-propagandists. And this was the very thing they were not expecting.

[Levin] But when we speak of Bonn, Vitaliy Ivanovich, we are bearing in mind that there are some people in the government, including Foreign Minister Genscher, who are in favor of the double zero: both for zero medium-range missiles and for zero operational and tactical missiles. Chancellor Kohl says: We reject Zero for operational and tactical missiles. Here it's very interesting to note that even in the government there is no full unanimity on this. The very fact that there are these different approaches reflects the clashes of opinion that now occur in Western Europe; they are occurring between countries; they are occurring within countries. A very pointed issue has emerged, a very pointed one. People who care about Europe's future, people who do not look at the development of the world through a device manufactured by the military-industrial complex, are undoubtedly making a more sober assessment of the situation. But we surely should not be speaking only of Britain, France, and the FRG; there are a great many other states in Europe as well, and the fate of Europe is their fate.

[Kobysh] Yes, and of course those states will have something to say, and their voice has a good deal of importance in NATO. Notice will have to be taken of their voices: the voice of Madrid, the voice of Athens, and the voices of the other countries of Western Europe. But for the moment Bonn is getting in the way. Britain's representative at the nuclear planning session in Norway, Younger, said, according to ASSOCIATED PRESS, that West Germany is now the main obstacle to working out a unified position in NATO on the elimination of shorter and medium-range missiles [rakety ponizhennoy, sredney, dalnosti]. This is being linked with medium-range missiles. The question arises: To what extent is Bonn acting independently? Or is it some sort of game that's being played? Why Bonn in particular should be clinging to these missiles in this way is an interesting question, especially if just for the reason that only West Germany of the West European states has the Pershing-1 missiles, which are operational and tactical missiles. Here perhaps the matter is not at all so straightforward. Perhaps they don't want to give up those missiles.

[Levin] Even though it's being proposed on a mutual basis, still they don't want to. And of course this is something one cannot fail to notice. We've mentioned, incidentally, that the proposal is also being made in the United States that the Pershing-2 missiles should be altered and made into Pershing-1's.

This is also one explanation of why U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger is very resolutely and categorically against eliminating the operational and tactical missiles. At the same session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group in Stavanger, a new thesis emerged: The NATO men called on the Soviet Union to eliminate all their medium-range missiles, including those that could remain, according to the Reykjavik formula, in the Asian part of our country. The question arises: If we are conducting negotiations with the Americans on the basis of the Reykjavik formula, then why subvert it? After all, the Geneva talks themselves are far from simple. Yes, we agree in principle; but I don't think anyone would risk saying with confidence that an agreement will be elaborated this year. There is hope, and reason to hope -- but to assert firmly that everything already has been done, and that an agreement is certainly to be signed would be premature. Therefore this obvious attempt to make the negotiations more difficult can only put us on our guard.

[Kobysh] You've just touched on the question of the missiles in Asia. That, too, is quite an acute problem, and not a simple one, because for the Asian countries it's a question of their security, a question of their future.

[Levin] This question cannot be viewed in isolation from our general fundamental policy set out in the well-known statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev of 15 January 1986, in which we put forward a phased plan for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000. There you have our answer to the question -- and any speculations, as soon as they are compared to the real facts, to our policy, and to our statement about the prospects of our policy, are at once exposed. That being so, NATO's way of putting the matter is a blatant attempt to complicate the talks.

[Zorin] It seems to me that there is not only maneuvering here, although maneuvering is taking place on the U.S. side. But I think a no less important reason is the contradictoriness of Washington's stance as such. There is no feeling that Washington has made a decision and speaks with one voice. All the more since this voice is to be heard in different ways. President Reagan speaks at times one way, at time another....

[Levin interrupts] A voice from one and the same mouth, even.

[Zorin] From the same mouth and almost at the same time. It is to be heard in different ways. Here matters are not so simple. The absence of this single voice reflects the process of a deep schism in which the Washington administration finds itself at present, and on very important issues. It isn't just a question of the fact that Reagan's presidency is on the wane, but that divergences have largely been disclosed in connection with the fact that a certain part of the ruling elite -- and it would be naive to consider that they're all semiliterate, that they're all frenzied there, and that they're all incapable of objectively analyzing a situation -- there are some more sensible politicians who have come to the conclusion that the line of confrontation, the line of attempting to find superiority over the Soviet Union which the administration has followed in its first period in power has not worked, and that some new ways have to be looked for. There are such people in the administration, and they are particularly numerous in Congress, bearing in mind as well, of course, the approaching election campaign.

[Levin] Valentin Sergeyevich, I think that when you talk about the fact that the administration's line has not worked, what you have in mind in the first instance, evidently, are the economic problems the United States confronts, and not so much within the country itself but on world markets.

[Zorin] That as well. I have in mind the fact that there has been a failure to achieve the Pentagon's long-for military superiority and what you have just mentioned. Indeed, it is coming to light that the pace of the arms race and the quantity of resources needed for this race exceed the means of an economy even as powerful as that of the United States. If for the time being this is coming to light within the country with only a very attentive glance, then on the world scene -- which you mentioned, Nikolay Ivanovich -- this is very evident. The arms race and military allocations have led to a hugh state debt and an inordinate budget deficit and have sharply reduced the competitiveness of U.S. goods on the world market. The Americans are currently suffering a defeat in the competitive struggle not only from Japan, but from their West European allies; although this problem is not being puffed up on the pages of the press intended for the broad public, serious people understand that something must be done, or else the American economy will lose the place to which it has become accustomed in the post-war period.

[Levin] I recently read that on the internal U.S. market even South Korean cars are already competing successfully.

[Zorin] South Korean goods and goods from a number of other countries. Broadly speaking, the Americans have a serious situation, and therefore influential circles are now thinking of reassessments. The money that could be saved if an accord is reached in Geneva will not be a luxury, but what they are in dire need of in order to maintain their economic positions. This is a breeding ground for politicians who maintain more considered stands at the talks as well.

[Levin] We already have touched on the problem of internal differences in the U.S. Administration in Washington, but recently these differences have left the confines of the White House and are manifesting themselves very vividly on Capitol Hill, in the U.S. Congress. Currently, comrades, you know that hearings are in progress on the Irangate affair, on the supply of weapons to Iran, and on the allocation to the contras of the money received from these secret operations. The essence of this problem, from the U.S. legislators' point of view, resides in the fact that the administration significantly exceeded its powers and acted, bypassing the legislative bodies and Congress. Moreover, when Congress was against granting money to the Nicaraguan contras, the administration gave the money. But after all, so to speak, this is the outward side of the phenomenon, but what if one is to take an in-depth look?

[Zorin] If one takes an in-depth look, then there is a very important detail here. It turns out that the machinery of the White House acted not only behind the back of Congress, but also contrary to the direct decisions made by Congress. Here, the affair is not simply -- and this constitutes the specific character of the present situation -- is not simply [repeats himself] that the gentlemen of Congress, or the brotherhood of writers in the newspapers are outraged by violations of the law by the executive side of power. I have no faith in the sincerity of this ardor because, even if one takes the Reagan administration, which over the past years has perpetrated so many violations of laws, blatant and frequently scandalous ones, and yet, not once did any noisy issues arise, so that -- and may the U.S. congressmen forgive me -- I have no faith in the sincerity of their ardor.

It appears that another issue is at stake here, and it is necessary to speak about this in order to reply to those of our listeners who are asking in their letters: how can this be? Surely the Executive power is not so feeble, and surely the President is not so feeble that he is capable of permitting such public abuser of state power to continue for so many months?

It is not a question of feebleness. The power is sufficiently strong, and it is also quite capable of gagging the press when it needs to and of keeping Congress obedient. The explanation of the present scandal is to be found in the fact that there are enormous and influential forces behind those who are conducting the exposure. The essential issue, if one were to formulate it in brief is this: The U.S. Congress is not simply a legislative body elected by Americans -- it is that, but it is also a very important mechanism which regulates the mutual relations of the major U.S. monopolist groups. But when the California group, which stands behind Reagan and which prevails in the present day White House, encroaches upon that mechanism -- then one is no longer speaking of high constitutional principles of which they are talking there, but of a lunge at the most important mechanism of the U.S. monopolies; they have not forgiven this.

It is for this reason that this whole affair has been started. That is, I would say that all the leading U.S. monopolist groups -- with the exception of the Californian one, which in the present case is under attack -- are behind this investigation, this investigation. [repeats himself] This explains the depths of this scandal and its force.

[Kobysh] As far as I am aware, our time is coming to a close. I would like to provide some kind of summary of what we have been discussing. Of course, very much will depend on how things are going to shape up in Washington itself. As Valentin Sergeyevich has already said, there are various points of view, opinions, positions, and interests there. Of those interests there are those which prevail that are linked in favor of subjecting medium-range missiles to vivisection, so to speak, then...

[Levin, interrupting] To destruction...

[Kobysh] Yes, then I think that all the opportunities are there for an agreement on the reduction and the destruction of medium-range missiles in Europe being signed even this year.

[Levin] So, I think that given all those difficulties about which we have been speaking here, there are grounds for remaining optimistic.

[Kobysh] Without a doubt. There are more grounds now than there were some time ago.

[Levin] Well, on that we shall call a halt. Thank you, esteemed comrades for your attention. All the best.

TASS COMMENTATOR ON NATO'S SPHERE OF OPERATIONS

LD172234 Moscow TASS in English 2115 GMT 17 May 87

["NATO -- Threat on a Global Scale -- Commentary" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS -- By TASS commentator Lev Aksenov:

The Atlantic military alliance is widening its sphere of operations. According to the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL, efforts to achieve this aim are being made "amid tight secrecy."

Specifically, the case in point is the expansion of military bases on the Island of Madeira that belong to Protocol. They are designed to support operations to the south of the Tropic of Cancer -- the line with geographical coordinates of 23 Degrees 27 Minutes northern Latitude which is considered to be the boundary of NATO's zone of action.

The report in DER SPEIGEL cannot but cause concern among many states whom NATO is offering its services of a "defender".

The efforts of the Atlantic alliance to go beyond the "traditional boundaries" of its military activity were made in the past. And each time that posed a threat to individual nations, primarily, the developing ones. One recent example is the Pentagon's piratic operation against Libya.

Open threats against Syria which are constantly coming out of Washington do nothing to stabilize the situation in the Middle East, one of the hottest spots of this planet.

Nor has the world forgotten the role played by the U.S. in the British-Argentinian conflict over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands.

The appetites of the Washington administration are not limited to the Atlantic. The Italian magazine PANORAMA wrote that President Reagan "considered European solidarity very desirable" in the support for the forces fighting against Angola, Kampuchea or Afghanistan.

However, the magazine quoted a prominent American political scientist John Harper as saying that the Europeans were not very keen on the idea of participation in the new ideological battles fought by the United States.

The desire of Washington leaders to spread NATO operations to the south of the Tropic of Cancer is a fresh manifestation of the "neoglobalism" doctrine that threatens sovereignty of scores of independent states.

REAGAN NEWS CONFERENCE ON IRAN AFFAIR, SDI

LD160835 Moscow TASS in English 0757 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Washington May 16 TASS -- President Reagan held on Friday a special news conference for editors of the regional press, in line with the White House strategy of "selective contacts" between the President and the press, aimed at countering the serious consequences of the Iran-contra scandal which undermined the administration's credibility.

In his opening statement, Reagan again criticised those members of the Congress who propose concrete measures in the field of arms limitation. "Several amendments have been offered in the Congress, such as those dealing with nuclear testing and SDI, that would undermine our negotiating positions in Geneva and tie my hands in the conduct of a vital part of our foreign policy," he said.

The head of the White House described as "dangerous trends" the attempts to secure the endorsement of the amendments and warned that if those trends continued those issues could become "the focus of a major national debate."

Reagan claimed that he had not "seen any evidence" that the present administration had been "mortally wounded" by the "Irangate scandal". "But the last six months public opinion surveys have indicated a significant drop in terms of public support of both you and your policies...How would you respond to that and how do you account for that?" one of the journalists asked. In reply the President tried to explain a sharp drop in support for the White House policy by the way the question were worded. "For example," he said, "I know a question in a poll that revealed a great majority didn't believe that I had told all the truth to the people."

The President replied that he had been telling the truth. At the same time, he again categorically denied that he knew about the illegal diversion to contras of a part of the multimillion proceeds from arms sales to Iran. However, when asked for comments on the testimony by former assistant to the President, McFarlane, Reagan noted that he "was kept briefed on" the contra operation and the situation in Nicaragua. "As a matter of fact, I was very definitely involved in the decisions about support to the freedom fighters. It was my idea to begin with," he said.

'Changed' White House Stance

LD171931 Moscow TASS in English 1906 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Washington May 17 TASS -- TASS correspondent Oleg Polyakovskiy reporting:

The White House has changed its stance on the scandal related to the "Iran-contras" covert operation.

Earlier President Ronald Reagan used to deny that he knew anything about military aid to the contras at the time of the congressional ban on it. By contrast, in the interview the President granted to reporters of four American magazines and published Saturday he said that the law in question had not applied to the National Security Council whose staffers had been in charge of running that operation.

"There is nothing in the law (the Boland Amendment) that prevents citizens -- individuals or groups -- from offering aid of whatever kind they wanted to... and my interpretation was that it was not restrictive on the National-Security adviser or National Security Council," the President said in the interview to reporters from U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, TIME, NEWSWEEK and NATIONAL JOURNAL. The Boland Amendment, the UPI news agency emphasized, strictly banned U.S. military and intelligence agencies from supplying direct or indirect aid to the contras over the period from October 1984 till October 1986.

Nonetheless, in his testimony to the special congressional panels investigating the "Iran-contras" affair, Robert McFarlane, former presidential adviser for national security, admitted that the Boland Amendment had directly applied to him and to the National Security Council.

When Edward Boland, the author of the amendment, asked McFarlane if the law permitted National Security staffers to offer any kind of assistance to the contras the latter answered with a "no."

Representative Dave McCurdy said that, in his opinion, the U.S. Administration had breached the spirit and the substance of the law.

Senator Dennis Deconcini said that the Congress had completed the second week of public hearings on the "Iran-contras" affair and noted that every passing day was bringing new alarming and surprising disclosures.

MCFARLANE TESTIMONY ON ARMS TO CONTRAS NOTED

LD171921 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 17 May 87

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Excerpts] Now to those other rebels -- the Nicaraguan contras. The U.S. Congress and President Reagan could be said to be at daggers drawn. Given the present correlation of forces on Capital Hill, the contras' access to the U.S. Treasury and the U.S. arsenals is getting more difficult. The more so since the Iran-contra scandal is working against Reagan. [passage omitted]

This week the hero of the congressional investigation was Robert McFarlane, the President's former national security adviser. He gave evidence twice. Congressmen had already given up hope of this, since in February McFarlane tried to commit suicide, unable to cope with the publicity and the unmasking. The main question was did Reagan know that his aides were covertly, and contrary to the Congressional ban, supplying the contras? The President continues to insist that he did not know. McFarlane did not accuse him directly, but said that the President gave orders for the matter to be carried out, thus giving his aides carte blanche to commit illegal actions. As a result of McFarlane's testimony, an even bigger shadow covered Reagan.

Revelations Continue

LD151231 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Washington May 15 TASS -- TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev reports:

The list of officials who have left the White House over the continuing Irangate scandal grew by another name when Jonathan Miller, a deputy assistant to the President who was director of the White House Office of Administration, tended in his resignation Thursday.

In his testimony on the same day former State Department consultant Robert Owen, who had acted as a courier and a personal envoy of high-ranking National Security Council staffer Oliver North, coordinator of a secret network involved in aiding contras, disclosed facts attesting to Miller's direct participation in the clandestine operation to bankroll the counter-revolutionary gangs.

Owen testified that in March 1985 he had helped cash 6,000 or 7,000 dollars worth of checks, which were then transferred to an unidentified contras representative.

It was practically right after that -- just ten minutes into a recess announced at the congressional hearing -- that Miller sent in his papers.

White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Miller's "voluntary" resignation was effective immediately.

NBC television commented that Miller had most likely decided to leave under pressure from the White House since he had put the Reagan administration in a fix on account of his role in the money transfer to the contras.

Miller became the first administration official to have quit government service because of revelations made at Irangate hearings.

Fresh details emerged Thursday also of the Central Intelligence Agency's role.

Republican Senator Paul Trible told a congressional hearing that two years before the C.I.A. had set aside 50,000 dollars for efforts to release American hostages in Lebanon, which was one of the aims of the Iran-contras operation.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL said the expose was further evidence that the spy agency led by William Casey had been involved in the affair much more closely than previously believed.

The first seven days of the open hearings raised serious questions also about the Reagan administration's compliance with the so-called Boland Amendment banning "direct or indirect" military aid to the contras.

Former Presidential Adviser Robert McFarlane testified that the administration had believed from the very outset it would be able to find lawful ways and means of circumventing the ban.

Answering numerous questions from newsmen over McFarlane's testimony, Fitzwater asserted that "there has been a great deal of confusion" over the interpretation of the amendement in its various forms and "it's not clear what the law says".

Congressman Dave McCurdy disagreed, however, speaking in a interview with CNN television, he said: "In my opinion, spirit and intent of the law were violated."

SOVIET, U.S. FAR EAST POLICIES CONTRASTED

LD152139 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 15 TASS -- Follows commentary by TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov:

U.S. secretary of state raised the subject of stability and security in the Asian-Pacific region, speaking at Stanford University, California, laying, as they say, his administration's own fault at other people's door, he claimed that the Soviet Union, its friends and allies "continue to show a readiness to exacerbate and exploit local tensions for their own ends." The U.S. secretary of state accused the USSR of a "massive build-up of Soviet nuclear and conventional forces" of "expanded Soviet military operations", etc.

The underlying reason for such fierce malicious attacks levelled by the U.S. secretary of state against the Soviet Union and its friends follows from his own statement. Shultz said that the USA and its allies "must redouble efforts to reinforce peace and stability through the maintenance of a credible deterrent." He claimed: "We have made important progress in doing so... But out task is far from over. However some might wish otherwise as, for instance, some of our friends in New Zealand."

The USA has indeed made "important progress" over the more than ten recent years in building up its military presence in the region, deploying there nuclear weapons delivery vehicles and nuclear warheads, including in one of such crisis zones as the Korean Peninsula. Way back in 1980 the U.S. defence secretary mentioned in his report that thousands of units of U.S. nuclear weapons were deployed outside Western Europe, chiefly in the Far East and the Pacific.

Since then their number has been steadily growing. And now U.S. aircraft carriers and other ships with nuclear-tipped Tomahawks on board are flying already in close proximity to the Soviet shores. The Pentagon is deploying nuclear-tipped lance missiles in South Korea. Japan has become, with Tokyo's tacit blessing, a base for the deployment of these weapons, which are also deployed in numerous U.S. bases in the Pacific. This is to day nothing that the U.S. force massed in that region is the second in its significance. Isn't it an example of a "massive buildup of nuclear and conventional forces" in Asia and the military operations in that area dangerous to peace, which the U.S. secretary of state is trying to ascribe to the USSR?

The USSR does nothing in the Asian-Pacific region above its minimum defence requirements, the defence requirements of its friends and allies, especially considering the defiant U.S. military activities near the borders of the USSR and those of its allies. Moreover, a clear call rang out from Vladivostok and India by the Soviet Union that the Asian-Pacific region be included into the general process of creating an all-embracing international security system, that a barrier be put up in the way of spreading and building up nuclear weapons, that a lowering of military confrontation be achieved, foreign military presence be eliminated, that the discussion of confidence-building measures and non-use of force be put on a practical plane, that all-round constructive, mutually beneficial cooperation be started. And this Soviet approach, unlike that of the USA, is received with gratification in the countries of the region.

What can Washington, for example, propose in answer to the Soviet Union's support for the idea of creating nuclear-free and peace zones in that area? It is not accidental that Mr. Shultz is fulminating against the USSR and its friends. The countries of the region, especially those which signed the Treaty of Rarotonga, would be well-advised to think over the phrase dropped by the U.S. secretary of state in his speech "declaratory statements of goodwill and so-called confidence-building measures that weaken strategic deterrence are not the answer." Isn't it a hint that the countries of the region will further be faced with Washington's "nuclear stick" by means of which it is trying to force its will on them?

PRAVDA REPORTS USSR-PRC COOPERATION SESSION

PM151129 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Commission Session"]

[Text] The second session of the Soviet-Chinese Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was held in Moscow 12-13 May. The Soviet delegation was headed by N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the Chinese delegation by Yao Yilin, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo and vice premier of the PRC State Council. A protocol was signed on the results of the work.

During the talks, which were held in a spirit of mutual understanding, the sides briefed each other on the fulfillment of the socioeconomic development plans in the USSR and the PRC and advocated expanding the mutual exchange of experience of socialist building.

Satisfaction was expressed with the fact that, thanks to joint efforts, cooperation between the two countries in various spheres has made appreciable progress since the first commission session held in Beijing in March 1986.

Noting the growth in trade, including trade between the two countries' border regions, the commission examined specific ways to further expand it.

There was a constructive exchange of opinions on questions of strengthening economic cooperation. Accords were reached on the Soviet Union's assistance to China in the construction of industrial enterprises.

The session also examined the prospects for expanding ties between the Soviet Union and China in the spheres of education, planning activity, and exhibition exchanges. The commission adopted a decision to set up two permanent working groups -- on cooperation in the sphere of power generation and also on mutual ties and cooperation between the two countries' state planning committees.

It was agreed that the next commission session will be held in Beijing in the spring of 1988.

Moscow Mandarin Comments

OW160815 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1500 GMT 14 May 87

[From "Current Events and Commentaries" program]

[Text] The Soviet-Chinese Commission for Economic, Trade, and Scientific and Technological Cooperation held its second meeting in Moscow on 12 and 13 May. During the session, participants to the meeting pointed out that joint efforts had been instrumental in bringing about the marked development of cooperation between the two countries in various fields. Our station observer comments:

Agreements signed in 1984 and 1982 were viewed as an important milestone in the cooperative relations between the Soviet Union and China in the area of trade, economy, and science and technology. In 1985, an agreement on goods exchange and payments for 1986-91 and agreements on building or transforming China's industrial and other projects as well as economic and technological cooperation were signed in Moscow.

The good-neighborly economic ties between the two countries have since developed rapidly. The trade volume between the Soviet Union and China was barely 500 million rubles in 1983, but it ballooned to 1.6 billion rubles in 1985. Last year also saw a big development in economic relations. Trade volume is expected to reach 3 billion rubles or more by 1990. Economic and trade relations between the two countries have developed smoothly, and cooperation in science and technology has also expanded. Construction and transformation of Soviet-assisted industrial and other projects in China are well under way. Speaking last summer in Vladivostok, Gorbachev stressed that the historical, complementary nature of Soviet-Chinese economic ties would provide great possibilities for further developing such ties.

The Soviet-Chinese Commission for Economic, Trade, and Scientific and Technological Cooperation has ended its second meeting. Soviet Government leader Ryzhkov has met with Chinese Vice Premier Yao Yilin who headed the Chinese delegation. Both sides exchanged views and expressed hopes for expanding economic ties and promoting all-round cooperation between the two countries. The potential for Soviet-Chinese cooperation is great.

TU CONFERENCE DISCUSSES INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

PM171820 Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 May 87 p 1

[TASS report: "Beijing Conference"]

[Text] Beijing, 9 May -- The Beijing newspaper GONGREN RIBAO has reported today that the All-China Trade Union Federation has held a provincial conference of leaders of national economic sectors devoted to questions of the observance of safety techniques at production.

Recently, the conference noted, the number of serious accidents and other emergencies at enterprises has considerably increased. Since the start of last year alone there have been 33 major fires and 41 explosions. There have been over 340 people killed and considerable material damage has been done. Accidents happen most often at small coal-mining enterprises.

FIRE CONTINUES IN HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE

OW180421 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1500 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Some 50,000 residents have been left homeless, and more than 200 people have been killed as a result of the forest fire which has raged in China's northeast for nearly 2 weeks. The government is providing emergency relief to the residents in the disaster area. The Soviet Government has sent a cable to Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang expressing its sympathy over the natural disaster.

PRAVDA CARRIES DOLGIKH SPEECH AT DPRK SARIWON RALLY

PM161411 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Friendship Rally"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 13 May -- The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by V.I. Dolgikh, candidate member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which is on an official friendly visit to the DPRK, today made a trip to Hwanghae-pukto Province. The guests visited the "Hwanghae" Metallurgical Association, where they viewed the enterprise's production facilities.

A Korean-Soviet friendship really was held in the province's administrative center, Sariwon. Addressing the rally, Kim Hyong-chong, chairman of the province Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee, declared: People in the DPRK know well the efforts being made by the CPSU and the USSR in the name of peace in Europe, in Asia, and throughout the world, and actively support the USSR's peace initiatives. The Korean people value the relations of traditional friendship with the Soviet people and are pleased to have Soviet people as reliable allies. Our people will make every effort to further develop Soviet-Korean relations.

V.I. Dolgikh addressed the rally. He conveyed to the DPRK working people fraternal greetings and best wishes from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the entire Soviet people.

We regard the atmosphere of sincere friendship and attention which our delegation has sensed from the first days of its stay in your splendid country, V.I. Dolgikh said, as a manifestation of a sense of great respect for Lenin's motherland, for the Land of the Soviets, and as evidence of the successful development of Soviet-Korean cooperation.

During the friendly visit we have again seen for ourselves that people throughout the DPRK carefully keep the traditions of Soviet-Korean friendship and cohesion. We note with great satisfaction that Soviet-Korean friendship has recently been filled with increasingly rich substance. The unity and cohesion of the CPSU and the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] in the struggle for peace and socialism constitute the reliable basis of this natural process.

The meeting between Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK, last October was an important milestone on the path of raising the level of our cooperation. It opened up new opportunities for activating our relations in all directions and stimulated increased cooperation between the two fraternal parties and countries in the struggle for peace and international security.

Soviet-Korean political contacts have received a good boost, and preconditions have been created for further developing national economic ties and enhancing the efficiency of exchanges of achievements and experience in science, culture, education, and information.

Our countries are now drawing up a broad long-term program for the further development of bilateral trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, production collaboration, and joint economic activity. It will affect such important sectors of the economy as power generation, metallurgy, machine building, light industry, and construction and will help to strengthen the industrial base and enhance the people's well-being.

Great attention is being devoted to setting up diverse business ties between the Soviet Far East and your country. There are great reserves here for giving mutual assistance in resolving major tasks of socialist building. We must make joint efforts to seek to enhance the efficiency of Soviet-Korean economic cooperation.

The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and the DPRK is of special significance in our relations. For more than a quarter-century now this document has been the sound legal-contractual foundation of the further development and strengthening of good neighborly relations between the two fraternal countries. It reliably serves the cause of strengthening peace and security in the Far East. The vitality and inviolability of our alliance consist in the fact that it unites like-minded people and comrades. The peoples of the Soviet Union and the DPRK are devoted to common aims and ideals in the struggle for peace and socialism.

Our delegation has been greatly impressed by the scope and scale of socialist building in the DPRK and by the Korean people's selflessness and truly revolutionary enthusiasm. We are gladdened by the major successes achieved in the course of realizing the 6th WPK Congress decisions. This year your republic's working people have confidently embarked on fulfilling the targets of the Third 7-Year National Economic Development Plan and energetically begun implementing the course of building socialism outlined in Comrade Kim Il-song's policy speech at the December session of the republic's Supreme People's Assembly.

Soviet people wholeheartedly wish the selfless labor of the DPRK working class, peasantry, and intelligentsia to be crowned with new achievements in the name of your motherland's prosperity, raising living standards for all sections of the population, ensuring security, and strengthening socialist Korea's international position.

We profoundly respect the experience of fraternal countries, study it attentively, and believe our peoples enrich each other in the creation of the new society. During our stay in the DPRK we have had a detailed exchange of opinions with the DPRK leaders on a wide range of questions of bilateral relations and urgent problems of the international situation. It has been a useful and productive discussion, whose purport consists, to put it briefly, in deepening and broadening ties between our countries' peoples for the good of socialism and peace on earth.

We know, V.I. Dolgihk continued, that people in your country show great interest in the life of the Soviet people. In this regard I would like to speak briefly about our affairs, about the chief tasks the party and the state are now resolving. We are carrying out all work under the sign of the approaching 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, under the beneficial impact of the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum decisions and the guidelines and ideas of the 27th party congress, which defined the policy of accelerating socioeconomic development.

Restructuring and renewal of all aspects of social life are under way in the country and are of revolutionary significance. [paragraph continues]

Profound transformations are being implemented in the economy and in the political and social areas, and shortcomings and omissions in work are being persistently eliminated.

The CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum concretized the tasks of restructuring in all avenues of the party's and the people's activity. The chief idea of our strategy, Comrade M.S. Gorbachev emphasizes, is to combine the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution with the planned economy and to commission socialism's entire potential.

Restructuring means relying on the living creativity of the masses, enhancing the role of intensive factors of economic growth, increasing attention to the social sphere, comprehensively improving cadre work, strengthening discipline, further developing democracy, and encouraging initiative and innovation. All this may be expressed in a brief formula: more socialism.

The essence of restructuring is not in the denial of previous experience but in the creative building and constant improvement of our social system, the continuation of the Great October cause, and the creation of all conditions for accelerated advancement.

In economics we are commissioning such profound factors in the struggle to develop the economy as the transfer of enterprises to full economic accountability, self-financing, and self-capitalization, the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, the improvement of investment policy, and a package of measures to fundamentally improve product quality. This is already yielding positive results. In the launch year of the 5-year plan higher rates of economic and social development were achieved than in the preceding period, and labor productivity and production efficiency increased substantially.

Qualitative restructuring of economic management is being carried out on the basis of the Leninist principles of democratic centralism, broadening the independence and enhancing the responsibility of enterprises, and developing labor collectives' initiative and socialist competition. Nationwide discussion of the Draft Law on State Enterprises is taking place in the country. The soviets' activities have been considerably galvanized, and their role in resolving economic and social tasks is increasing. All this is aimed at more fully revealing socialism's creative, constructive potential.

Throughout their history our party and the Soviet state have indefatigably championed the cause of peace, freedom, and the peoples' independence. The development and strengthening of socialism are very closely linked with the destinies of peace and international security, with preventing thermonuclear conflict, and with the problem of mankind's survival.

The CPSU firmly adheres to positions of new political thinking in international affairs and attaches paramount significance to shaping and asserting it. The USSR resolutely advocates the total elimination of nuclear weapons on our planet by the beginning of the 21st century. We strive consistently to ensure that all peoples and states live a full, healthy life under conditions of peace and multifaceted cooperation. The interests of purging the globe of means of mass destruction dictate the Soviet Union's proposals to conclude agreements in the very near future on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles and also operational and tactical missiles in Europe.

The establishment of lasting peace and cooperation in such a vast and populous region as Asia and the Pacific zone would make a significant contribution to the creation of an all-embracing system of international security. [paragraph continues]

Being a major Asian and Pacific power, the Soviet Union seeks to promote in every possible way the development of the peacemaking process in this region.

This is the aim of the idea advanced by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev of a comprehensive approach to problems of ensuring Asian security. It is founded on the profound conviction that, for all the complex and contradictory nature of the present situation, it is possible to find mutually acceptable solutions to the acute questions that exist and to elaborate methods of surmounting disagreements and settling conflicts if every interested state displays good will and lack of prejudice in the spirit of the new political thinking. It must be emphasized here that the search for ways to strengthen security and organize peaceful cooperation among all countries in the Asia and Pacific region cannot be allowed to drag on for a long time.

We very highly value and actively advocate the realization of the DPRK proposal to turn the Korean Peninsula into a peaceful, nuclear-free zone. The implementation of this idea would seriously improve the situation on the peninsula and make a substantial contribution to the cause of Asian security.

The Soviet Union actively supports the DPRK's efforts aimed at withdrawing the U.S. troops from South Korea, uniting the motherland on a peaceful democratic basis without external interference, and setting up a constructive North-South dialogue. We regard as of great international importance Pyongyang's proposals to renounce large-scale military exercises on the peninsula, to hold military-political talks and a meeting of prime ministers, and to resume North-South economic and interparliamentary contacts. In our view, this is the right way to reduce tension on the peninsula.

Pursuing a Leninist foreign policy, the Soviet Union will continue to cooperate closely with the DPRK in the struggle for the triumph of a world without weapons or wars on the planet.

In conclusion V.I. Dolgikh wished the DPRK working people new achievements in building a socialist Korea.

DPRK DENIES ILLEGALLY DETAINING S. KOREAN SHIP

PM140923 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "KCNA Report"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 7 May -- A representative of the DPRK Red Cross Society Central Committee today described as groundless the accusation made by the South Korean side that DPRK border services allegedly illegally detained the ship Tongjin No 27 on the open sea, according to a statement to the press published by the KCNA.

As reported earlier, competent DPRK organs have conducted an investigation into the South Korean vessel, which intruded into DPRK territorial waters in January this year.

The document points out that the captain and the leader of the fishing team admitted that, as agents of South Korean intelligence services, they had committed acts of espionage hostile to the DPRK in its territorial waters. They also said they deserve to be punished in accordance with DPRK law.

Instead of apologizing for the fact that its spy ship had illegally penetrated deep into DPRK territorial waters, the South Korean Red Cross Society, the statement stresses, has launched a campaign hostile to the DPRK, taking its lead from the Seoul authorities.

TIKHOMIROV ON U.S., SEOUL REASONS FOR MILITARISM

PM171335 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 Second Edition p 5

["Commentator's Column" by Sergey Tikhomirov: "Same Old Fables"]

[Text] The latest U.S.-South Korean consultative conference on security questions has been held in Washington, with Pentagon Chief C. Weinberger and South Korean Defense Minister Yi Ki-paek taking part.

The South Korean minister also toured U.S. military bases and enterprises. This excursion served as a kind of illustration of the topic of the talks between the allies. They reached accord, in particular, on the drafting of an agreement for expanding cooperation in the military industry.

To provide at least a formal justification for the buildup of militarist efforts, U.S. and South Korean spokesmen repeated their "commitment to the cause of maintaining peace and stability in the Korean peninsula." But their actions have nothing in common with stability, let alone "a commitment to the cause of peace." Take as an example the recent deployment of nuclear-capable "Lance" missiles in the south of the Korean Peninsula, or the large-scale provocation -- the "Team Spirit-87" maneuvers -- which ended only a few days ago.

Such blatantly adventurist actions are presented almost as proof of the U.S. readiness to render "swift and effective assistance to South Korea in the event of armed attack." The question is: From which direction is an attack expected? "From the North," of course. For the sake of "substantiating" this thesis, claims are repeated about the Soviet Union's military might and some kind of "treacherous plans" by the DPRK.

Familiar repetition of the same old fables -- this is how one can describe such "arguments." After all, if Seoul and Washington sincerely wished to do so, they would find it easy to convince themselves that there have been and there are no "aggressive intentions" in Pyongyang and Moscow. It is sufficient to recall the entire complex of the USSR's far-reaching peace initiatives, announced in Vladivostok in July last year. The DPRK's constructive proposals are also widely known. As a spokesman of the DRRK Foreign Ministry declared yesterday, the people's republic intends to eliminate the tension on the peninsula, which has been whipped up to its limit, through dialogue between Korea's North and South. But the South Korean authorities, enjoying U.S. support, do not agree to this proposal.

It is evident that, to persist with their militarist course, both of them have a great need to whip up the thesis about an "external danger."

AFGHAN VETERANS DEPLORE ATTITUDE TO RETURNEES

LD141046 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1315 GMT on 13 May, in its "Yunost" program, broadcasts a 45-minute "radio story" by Aleksandr Barkhatov entitled "From an Afghan Diary." The program is devoted to the experience of Soviet troops returning home from service in Afghanistan, and in particular to the memory of Junior Sergeant Vasiliy Kovalenko on the first anniversary of his death in action. Five of his comrades have come to his village, (?Lipovinki), near Kirovgrad, to pay respects to his memory. In interviews, these veterans recall Kovalenko's outstanding qualities. One remembers a raid in which his unit, including Kovalenko, was dropped by helicopter to attack a Dushman convoy coming from Pakistan in which Kovalenko displayed his courage, leadership, and confidence under fire. In the thick of the fighting he was killed by a bullet in the head as he braved fierce enemy fire to pick up a bandage for a wounded comrade.

Extracts from Vasiliy's cheerful letters to his family are read. He mentions his first parachute drops and forced marches, but says nothing about combat operations. Barkhatov then conducts a brief interview with Kovalenko's mother. The street where his parents live is now named after him. The school museum tells his story. Barkhatov then interviews some of Kovalenko's former school friends, one of whom recalls that Kovalenko once rescued a girl from drowning.

Kovalenko's comrades then recall how he earned his first Red Star. In February 1985, on a night operation, a BTR personnel carrier became stuck when the unit was crossing a river. Kovalenko plunged into the icy water to attach a hook and tow-rope so that the vehicle could be recovered. Other instances of his outstanding selflessness are recalled.

Barkhatov then asks the veterans why they feel that the attitude of their countrymen to them as veterans of the conflict in Afghanistan is not what they expected it to be. One replies: "They don't understand." Another says: "One or 2 people out of 10 understand. They are people with delicate souls, I believe, and a nature which can empathize. You've seen my photos, haven't you? They tell you everything. Some people will shuffle through them like a pack of cards. Others have stood up, packed them together, and turned them over -- unable to look and with tears in their eyes. But 8 out of 10 just flick through them and toss them on the table. That's why I don't try any more experiments like that now. I was curious then. What can be worse than not being understood? Our medals only annoy them now. It's a paradox, but annoy them they do."

Barkhatov asks: "How do you explain that? Why should they annoy anyone?" One of the veterans replies: "Take me, for example. I was a warrant officer for 2 years, but I became a senior warrant officer. Other people, who still see themselves as warrant officers after 40 years -- it's human envy."

Barkhatov responds: "Surely you don't come across that sort of attitude all that often." The veteran replies: "Yes, every day. It makes you want to go back there."

Another veteran then says: "Take the Great Patriotic War -- and this one. People don't talk about it much. There aren't many books about it, and no movies at all. Oh, there was one: 'Hot Sun in Kabul'. One movie about Afghanistan. People say to me: 'You were in the war there. Did you see a dushman?' Did I see a dushman? That's a joke! What can I say to them?"

Barkhatov then says: "Maybe we're getting close to an answer. Maybe it's because we don't talk about it enough, or in the wrong way?" The veterans affirm that not enough is said about the war in Afghanistan. One of them says: "I don't know. Perhaps it's forbidden to write about it, or to show movies. Maybe, I don't know. They've shown wounded people, but only Afghans, you see. They don't show our wounded. Maybe they haven't shown ours because it's not allowed. I don't know, but the fact is they should show them...". Another veteran interjects: "In every broadcast, and in every paper I look right away to where it says, 'BAKHTAR reports....' and I read it immediately. I'm just interested, you see. Because it's a rare thing, you understand. It's not in every paper. There's not always something. But every day there are events there, something happens every day. But when you get home, nobody knows anything about it. They ask such silly questions that you can't answer, such as: 'How many did you kill?' That's a silly question, isn't it."

Another veteran then says: "Let me say something, boys. What we need is to have people see with their own eyes. Some general monument, some sort of memorial could be built, for all the boys. So everyone can see that we fought there. So we could all visit it. After all, there are a great many of us throughout the Soviet Union. We could come to this central monument, lay flowers, pay our respects, talk, and remember everything. Why can't it be done? Why not? Everywhere there are monuments to fallen servicemen, and tombs of the unknown warrior. After all, all our boys are buried in our own soil, in their homeland. It would be good to see something majestic, imposing, with a splendid artistic design, looking powerful, strong, and colorful; and it would be good if it were truthful, too."

Barkhatov asks the veterans: "What do you have in mind? Which organization could undertake that?" One of them replies: "I think only the Komsomol could, the youth organization, our Komsomol, which is ahead of the others. It could choose the site. It doesn't matter where -- in the Ukraine, in Belorussia. What matters is that it should be built."

Barkhatov then notes: "There is much pain -- their own and that of others -- in their memory. Pain which, like the water in the mountains, it was customary to share equally there. Now they wish to live according to the same law, the truth. Perhaps we now have less of this experience than they, the former regimental comrades, have."

Barkhatov then talks to the former commander of these men, Major (Dmitriy Lyut), who notes how difficult it is for veterans to adapt from the combat situation in which everything seems clear-cut, to civilian life at home, and not only for the demobilized soldiers. He says: "It is a great problem for the officer corps, too. I experienced this in the Soviet Union, exactly what you've just been talking about. We, too, are unable to adjust, or to wait for anything, the more so because our vital position, the one we acquired in Afghanistan, now fully accords with the party policy being implemented, especially since the January plenum. Much closer attention was paid there, without doubt, to what was happening in our country, than perhaps sometimes in civilian life. There, like sponges, we hungrily absorbed everything. Above all, we greedily picked up all the changes for the better taking place in the country, the things we spoke of among ourselves, that weighed heavy on us, were suddenly beginning to surface in the country, and we were very glad." The major goes on to speak of the need for restructuring and the need to utilize the energies of the returning soldiers.

Barkhatov then interviews Major Vasiliy Andreyev, in the presence of two Komsomol servicemen, whose qualities he extols. Asked about their plans for post-Army life, the servicemen say that there should be less bureaucracy and Komsomol officers should be in closer contact with the rank and file. More meetings between central VLKSM bodies and local organizations are needed, they point out.

In conclusion, Barkhatov quotes Gorbachev's speech to the 20th Komsomol Congress, in which he praised the servicemen in Afghanistan.

PRAVDA CITES NAJIBULLAH ON RECONCILIATION, USSR TIES

PM171339 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Along the Course of Reconciliation"]

[Text] Kabul, 13 May -- Answers by Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to questions recently raised and discussed by PDPA members in the course of primary party organization meetings have been published here. The Afghan leader noted that the process of national reconciliation in the country is gathering pace. This is the only way to peace, happiness, and a tranquil life for all Afghans, he declared. The Afghan leader emphasized that the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation is in no way a sign of weakness.

Najib pointed out that more than 4,000 representatives of the opposite side have already joined the extraordinary commissions for reconciliation. This is a specific feature of coalition rule which is developing from the bottom upward in Afghanistan. We will do everything to consolidate and raise to higher levels the local coalition working organs.

The Afghan leader explained that the issue concerns not reconciliation with all landowners, deputies, and senators from the past, but only with those of them who would recognize the new reality and would return home not to restore the old order but to work for the benefit of national reconciliation and the benefits of the people and the fatherland -- reconciliation with those who have repented for the crimes they have committed and are determined to prove their loyalty to the motherland.

Dwelling on internal party matters, the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee noted in particular the need for the steady development and consolidation of democracy and the principles of electability and publicity, the development of constructive criticism, unity of word and deed, and the enhancement of discipline, order, and demandingness in all links of the party and state apparatus.

Last year, he said, four left-wing democratic groups and organizations merged with the PDPA. Talks on this subject are currently under way with three organizations. Our line of union with all political patriotic organizations on the platform of implementing common revolutionary goals remains unaltered.

We have reached a qualitatively new level in the sphere of Afghan-Soviet relations, Najib went on to declare. We have traveled the path from good-neighborliness to friendship and brotherhood. We have marched and will continue to march along the honest and pure path of friendship with our northern neighbor. This path was bequeathed to us by our fathers and grandfathers, and we will not disappoint their hopes, the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee said.

DRA PARTY, STATE ROLE IN HINTERLAND NEEDS BOOST

LD150919 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0430 GMT 15 May 87

[Telephone interview with Afghanistan correspondent Boris Savodyan by commentator Vladimir Fadeyev on "Panaroma" program]

[Text] [Fadeyev] Boris Mikhaylovich, it's been 4 months since the announcement of the new peace-loving policy of the revolutionary government. Tell us about the first results of that policy. It would be interesting to hear also how the people assess the policy of national reconciliation.

[Savodyan] A definitive appraisal of its results is not yet possible. There has not yet been any radical turning point in the situation that has been building up and taking shape for 8 years. Greater efforts are still needed. Nonetheless, it can be said that the DRA Government is now stronger than it was 4 months ago. It now has experience, gained by common efforts, of putting national reconciliation into effort. This is precious experience, achieved through suffering. The people here are striving to study it thoroughly and multiply it by every means. The path that has been traveled in 4 months, though short, indicates the viability of the path toward national reconciliation.

[Fadeyev] Boris Mikhaylovich, the great majority of the population of Afghanistan lives in rural areas. What is the attitude there to the idea of national reconciliation? We know that the program of the revolution is an extensive one, and may not always be understandable to the absolute majority of the peasants, above all on account of their backwardness and illiteracy.

[Savodyan] The rural population supports national reconciliation, though it has to be said that the positions of the party and government in the countryside still need to be strengthened. That is no easy task. The fact is that enormous changes have taken place in Afghanistan during the post-revolutionary years, especially social changes. At the same time, the authorities did not grasp from the very beginning of the revolution the full complexity and intricacy of the peasant issue. Their main forces were concentrated in towns, and the necessary measures to consolidate the foundations of power in rural areas were not carried to completion. The enemies of the revolution exploited this. They also exploited certain mistakes on the part of the authorities in order to deceive the peasants.

[Fadeyev] Yet it is absolutely clear that the policy of national reconciliation has undisputed merit. It creates real prerequisites for a political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan -- but that cannot be achieved without reciprocity on the part of the United States and Afghanistan's neighbors, particularly Pakistan. What can you tell us about this, Boris Mikhaylovich? Are there any signs that the other side is interested?

[Savodyan] Unfortunately, one must say that so far there is no such reciprocity. I was recently with a group of local, Soviet, and foreign journalists in the Khowst District. To be honest, we flew there with some trepidation. In recent months, several Afghan aircraft have been shot down in the area, which is close to the border with Pakistan. We were shown fragments of one of the wrecks, which had been shot down by an American Stinger missile. The Afghan Air Force colonel (?Assodullah) told the journalists that in the past 2 months, Pakistani F-16 planes have violated Afghan airspace 20 times over the Khowst District. Near the village of (?Tani), on the outskirts of Khowst, we were shown an American Sidewinder missile that had fallen on Afghan soil without being activated. These are the air-to-air missiles with which Pakistan's F-16 fighter-bombers are equipped.

Isn't that proof that the United States and Pakistan are striving to solve the Afghan question by military means, and doing all they can to thwart the policy of national reconciliation?

[Fadeyev] Well, Boris Nikolayevich, you are absolutely right to put the matter in that way. Thank you for taking part in our panorama program.

TV SURVEYS WAR IN AFGHANISTAN'S KHOWST PROVINCE

LD171916 Moscow Television Service in Russian 171400

[From "International Panorama" program presented by Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Text] [Kondrashov] Before we go on to the next topic, Afghanistan, I would like to say that the replies of Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to the questions put at party meetings in the past 4 weeks throughout the country were published in Kabul on 12 May. Four months have passed since the PDPA leadership began practical implementation of the concept of national reconciliation. Among other questions put to Najib -- and there were more than 900 -- was this one: What will we do if, during the cease-fire which is to last primarily 6 months, our political opponents show no readiness to make peace, while the imperialists begin to give them even more aid? Najib replied: The defense of the revolution and of the people's interests is a matter of vital concern for us. However, we want as little of our brothers' blood spilled here as possible, since it is practically impossible to try to implement the lofty goals of the revolution through national suicide and, from the moral standpoint, it is a crime.

And now here is Mikhail Leshchinskiy's reportage:

[Leshchinskiy] To the uninitiated observer, this spectacle -- the bright balls of flame flaring up around the plane -- may seem incomprehensible and even interesting. [video shows bursts of flame, filmed from inside an aircraft]. However, the people who, in their line of duty often fly the skies over Afghanistan, see it as a sign of greater danger: This is a zone where the bandits may launch heat-guided surface-to-air missiles -- and it is precisely for these missiles that the traps fired by the aircraft and helicopters are intended. Journalists on board have been ordered to put on their parachutes -- just in case, for, after all, anything could happen. [video shows three men wearing parachutes, one filming] The plane began its descent over the Afghan town of Khowst, several kilometers from the Pakistani frontier. During the landing, which was none too pleasant, I recalled the clips from a captured newsreel made available to us prior to our assignment by the DRA's competent bodies. These clips were taken here but, as they say, from the other side of the fence. Well, this is how the evil eye monitors flights of planes here, the Khowst airport. And this is how bandit leaders work out plans for more crimes. They even included the work of animation specialists here, to depict their alleged victories in bold relief, as it were. Khowst Province drives a big wedge deep into Pakistani territory. On three sides it is surrounded by fortified areas, bases and arsenals of the bandits. They even bragged that the province is under their complete control, torn from Afghanistan forever.

Each and every criminal bandit sortie receives a crushing rebuff from the Afghan Army. Still, the situation here, in direct proximity to Pakistan, remains very complicated. Representatives of the biggest news agencies, newspapers, television, and radio companies from all over the world, invited to Khowst, were shown new evidence of the counterrevolution's and Pakistani military clique's crimes.

Forty people -- peaceful, totally innocent citizens -- died under the wreckage of this plane. [video shows aircraft wreckage] As if that were not enough, the bandits and the Pakistani authorities stated that it was a military aircraft shot down in Pakistani territory, that it was on an intelligence-gathering mission, and that no peaceful citizens were on board. Well, here are the facts. [video shows man being interviewed standing near the wreck] My younger brother Yavoub, said Ahmed Khan, was returning to Kabul aboard this plane after vacation. The awful news shook the whole town. The funeral flags put up here, according to Muslim tradition, also represent a symbol of vengeance, of a curse on the bandits and on those who put weapons into their hands to shoot down peaceful aircraft and wipe out peaceful people.

Here is this lethal weaponry, a quantity of it. [video shows piles of military weapons] It was seized during an Afghan Army operation in Khowst Province. These are British surface-to-air Blowpipe missiles. They are modern missiles and currently in use. And these are the stinger missiles, or, to be more correct, the launching equipment and, who knows, maybe the Afghan transport plane was shot down by a missile fired from these launchers.

Washington has long since ceased to make a secret of the fact that this lethal weaponry is being delivered here. THE WASHINGTON POST even reported recently that U.S. training courses have been set up near Khowst, on Pakistani territory, to teach the bandits how to launch the Stinger missiles, of which 600 will be delivered this year alone. This is the material reinforcement, following the White House's 15 January statement to the effect that the cease-fire in Afghanistan is a useless enterprise, a propaganda trick. However, millions of Afghans, whose families suffer more and more calamities brought about by the fratricidal war, think differently. This white-bearded mullah, a man very much respected in Khowst, gave his consent to head the local extraordinary commission on national reconciliation. Mullah Vibulladzhan told journalists that three of his sons and his brother were killed by the bandits. However, following the precepts of Islam and in the name of my people's happiness, he said, I am ready for reconciliation even with those whose hands are crimson with blood; after all, they, too, are the victims of those who find it convenient to stoke the flames of war on our soil.

Yes, the grief and suffering of these people from Khost Province is convenient for the U.S. strategists, who have long since regarded this entire region of Asia, bordering directly on the USSR's border, as a special-interest zone. Way back 26 years ago the U-2 spy plane shot down over our country took off fro a place near here, from Pakistan. Now, on the other side of the ocean, consent has readily been given to make long-range radar surveillance and guidance AWACS aircraft available to Pakistan.

Here is yet another convincing piece of evidence shown to the journalists: the U.S. Sidewinder missile which malfunctioned and went down directly in the courtyard of the house belonging to Dukhan Rakhmandzhan. [video shows wrekced missile] He saw it fired from the F-16 fighter at another Afghan plane. These are the facts from just one assignment in the Afghan border province of Khowst, made when less than 2 months remain before the expiry of the cease-fire unilaterally declared by Kabul.

[Kondrashov] Comrades, there is one very well-known aspect to the Afghan problem which is holding up its solution: U.S. military assistance. Unfortunately, U.S. legislators -- the U.S. Congress -- do not counter the actions of the Reagan administration. Quite the reverse, they pour oil on the fire by demanding that aid to the dushmans should be stepped up.

FIJI COUP LEADER 'FORCED' TO TURN OVER POWER

LD180800 Moscow TASS in English 0741 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] London May 18 TASS -- Lieutenant Colonel Rabuka, who headed the military coup in Fiji the other day, was forced to agree to turning over power to the governor-general of that small island state in Southern Pacific, this was disclosed by Ratu Penaia Ganilau, governor-general of Fiji. In an address to the nation broadcast on the radio on completion of his talks with Rabuka he said that he had ordered the military government to end its activities. Servicemen had been ordered to return to the barracks. The statement by Ganilau was preceded by a broad campaign of civil disobedience, which was started in Fiji in protest against the military coup.

Peace Council Condemns Coup

LD171042 Moscow TASS in English 1034 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Helsinki May 17 TASS -- The military coup in Fiji is of a type already well known to public opinion from Chile, Grenada and other countries, the World Peace Council said in a statement here.

This coup was committed against a government whose foreign policy included a nuclear-free Fiji, a ban on visits by all nuclear warships and a commitment to non-alignment.

The World Peace Council strongly condemned the coup whose effect it said was to increase tension in all other countries of the region, particularly in those who supported the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the South Pacific, which was an important contribution to the worldwide efforts for peace and nuclear disarmament.

Further Details

LD161143 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] According to reports from Fiji, an insular state in the South Pacific, leaflets have appeared in the capital, Suva, calling for a display of civil disobedience toward the military who staged a coup on Thursday. This conflicts with the claims of the chief rebel, Lt Col Rabuka, that the population supports the coup. Not a single foreign country has recognized the cabinet hastily formed by Rabuka.

In the meantime, the vice president of Fiji's Labor Party (?Simeon Durutalu) who fled to Hawaii, has told THE ASSOCIATED PRESS that participants in the coup included a white man, who spoke with American accent [as heard]. This indirectly confirms reports on Washington's possible involvement in the military coup.

CPV'S NGUYEN VAN LINH MAKES STOPOVER EN ROUTE TO MOSCOW

LD171232 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Today Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, made a stopover in Tashkent.

He is on his way to Moscow for an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. At the airport Nguyen Van Linh was met by Comrade Usmankhodzhayev, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, and other officials. Nguyen Manh Cam, SRV ambassador to the USSR, was in the welcoming party.

Departs for Moscow

LD180633 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0430 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Tashkent, 18 May (TASS) -- Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, today left Tashkent by air for Moscow on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

Nguyen Van Linh was seen off at Tashkent airport by Inamzhon Usmankhodzhayev, first secretary of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Central Committee, and other officials.

Nguyen Manh Cam, Vietnamese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the Soviet Union, who met the CPSU Central Committee general secretary in the Uzbek capital, accompanied him to Moscow.

Welcomed by Gorbachev

LD180856 Moscow TASS in English 0842 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 18 TASS -- A welcoming ceremony was held in the St. George's Hall at the Grand Kremlin Palace today for Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

He was greeted cordially by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The leader of the Vietnamese Communists arrived in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

SHISHLIN ON GORBACHEV ROMANIA TRIP, BLOC RELATIONS

LD152156 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 15 May 87

[Commentary by political observer Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] On the eve of the visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, attention is drawn not only to Soviet-Romanian relations, for which, of course, there are many opportunities for further development, but also to the relations between socialist countries as such. Have they changed in the last couple of years? I would say that if one ponders this question, the right answer can be in the affirmative. Of course, they have become richer, more intense and, I would say, more frank and sincere. It goes without saying that there are certain nuances in relations between each socialist country and its neighbors, especially as the question is of mutual relations between sovereign and independent countries with their own national interests -- yet, between countries that are socialist. This is an extremely important definition. When we speak about changes in mutual relations among socialist states and about the enrichment of those relations, the point in question is, of course, not the numerical aspect of the meetings, not adding or summing up the number of those meetings, but the content of mutual relations among socialist countries.

Take, for example, the relatively recent visit of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to Czechoslovakia. In fact, all the key political problems concerning relations between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia and relations between our fraternal parties were discussed. Of course, this enriched our ideas on the ways and forms of the construction of socialism, and this enriched our Czechoslovak friends.

Take economic links between socialist countries. We have long been speaking about the need to establish direct links among the national economies of our socialist states and, as a matter of fact, these direct links are developing. But new forms of these links are also emerging and joint enterprises are being created. Of course, the process is not developing without some difficulties, but the important facts are the current taste and interest for it, as well as the first real experience of the way these joint enterprises should be established and built so they can contribute to satisfying the interests of all the participants in cooperation.

A great many new things are emerging in the ideological sphere, too. In this respect, the document signed during Comrade Jaruzelski's stay in the Soviet Union is very significant. I mean the Soviet-Polish declaration which envisages not merely expanding and enriching reciprocal links between the PZPR and the CPSU in the sphere of ideology but also has as its goal joint work by our scientists, our specialists, and our ideologists in all spheres of social sciences. This is an extremely interesting undertaking and, of course, one presumes it may be of great benefit and not only in terms of certain research projects, or in terms of fillings gaps which still remain in historical science, but also in terms of better knowing the peoples of our countries, of bringing our countries and our states closer.

This is what one thinks of, naturally, in connection with the impending visit of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to Romania, and one can hope that this visit will inscribe yet another distinguished page in the history of establishing strengthening, and developing international socialist relations.

SOKOLOV GOING TO HUNGARY 'SECOND HALF OF MAY'

LD140955 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0936 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 14 May TASS -- Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Sokolov, USSR minister of defense, will visit the Hungarian People's Republic on an official friendly visit in the second half of May at the invitation of Colonel General Ferenc Karpati, Hungarian minister of defense.

HONECKER'S EXCHANGE WITH FRG'S VOGEL REVIEWED

LD152201 Moscow TASS in English 2131 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Berlin May 15 TASS -- The central task of the present is to ensure peace. It is for the first time after the war that the history-making chance has appeared of fully freeing Europe from medium and shorter range missiles, of stopping a further modernization of mass destruction weapons and scrapping them. A statement to this effect has been made by Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee, chairman of the GDR Council of State, and Hans-Jochen Vogel, chairman of the SPD floor in the FRG Bundestag, during the scheduled exchange of views in Hubertusstock Castle today. That chance, they stressed, must be used without any strings attached. It shall not be impeded by objections and additional demands. Those who act differently take grave responsibility upon themselves.

Erich Honecker and Hans-Jochen Vogel spoke highly of the project to create a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe and said that that project should be discussed now also at the level of governments. They pointed out that the creation in Europe of a zone free from chemical weapons could become the first step towards a universal ban on that type of mass destruction weapons and declared for a cut in conventional weapons. The fundamental prerequisite for peace in Europe remains the inviolability of borders and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all European states within their present-day borders. Peaceful relations are strengthened also through the exercise of human rights, the way they were spelled out by the United Nations and in the Final Act of the Conference on European Security and Cooperat9on.

In examining the state of relations between the GDR and the FRG, Erich Honecker and Hans-Jochen Vogel placed on record that after the treaty on the fundamentals of relations was concluded, many problems have been resolved for the benifit of both states and their citizens. A frank exchange of views was held on the question of citizenship and other problems.

The sides again declared for a strict observance and application in full of the quadripartite agreement on West Berlin, which was signed on September 3, 1971.

Erich Honecker and Hans-Jochen Vogel declared for a further development of bilateral contacts at various levels and stressed the need for establishing as soon as possible official relations between the GDR People's Chamber and the FRG Bundestag.

DEMICHEV SPEAKS AT BULGARIAN FACTORY RALLY

PM161727 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meetings in Bulgaria"]

[Text] Sofia, 13 May -- The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Stara Zagora today. During a meeting with city and okrug leaders, the delegation members were told that the direct ties established here with Soviet enterprises have helped the development of many priority avenues of scientific and technical progress in the okrug. Now 10 percent of all output exported by Bulgaria to the USSR bears the brand name of Stara Zagora Okrug enterprises. A conversation also developed about the activity of soviet and people's councils and their role in the restructuring being implemented in the USSR and Bulgaria.

The Soviet guests visited the Beroe Robotics Combine. It is one of the pioneers in the creation of joint Soviet-Bulgarian enterprises, and is part of the Beroe (Stara Zagora) and Krasnyy Proletariy (Moscow) Science-and-Production Association. The association produces robotics complexes and processing centers meeting the best world standards.

A Bulgarian-Soviet friendship rally was held at the plant. It was addressed by P.N. Demichev.

In these days, he said, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance Between the USSR and the Bulgarian People's Republic. Together we have traveled a long path in these years. Much has been achieved in developing and strengthening the relations of friendship and all-around Soviet-Bulgarian cooperation. An inspiration for new accomplishments along this path was provided by the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 13th BCP Congress. And now the working people in our countries have no task more important than to translate congress directives into specific deeds.

Once more, our delegation's meetings with leaders of Bulgaria's National Assembly and Council of Ministers proved graphically the complete coincidence of our positions on all fundamental issues of Soviet-Bulgarian relations and international politics. It is a great pleasure for us to visit your combine, which is in the forefront of modern scientific and technical progress and maintains firm ties with production and scientific collectives in the Soviet Union. Life proves convincingly that our cooperation, based on new socialist principles, helps the successful solution of economic, scientific, and technical problems and firmly holds its ground in the face of pressure and blackmail by the forces of imperialism. It was your plant that fulfilled the Kama Truck Plant's orders when a number of capitalist firms, yielding to U.S. pressure, refused to fulfill orders for the USSR. This was yet another convincing manifestation of the fundamental principle of our relations -- the principle of internationalism. For the working class, internationalism is a real feeling of comradeship and readiness to offer support whenever it may be necessary. This noble feeling forms the core of unbreakable Soviet-Bulgarian friendship.

Each new stage of socialist society's development poses its own, at times difficult, problems which must be promptly noticed and interpreted; correct responses must be found to the challenge of the time. Delays and detachment from real demands inevitably engender phenomena of stagnation and retardation. Life convinces us that socialist society is not insured against this.

As you know, a process of profound revolutionary restructuring, covering all aspects of social life, is spreading on an increasingly broad scale and is gathering pace in our country. The same processes are under way in your own country.

Socialism is a constantly developing, dynamic social system. Restructuring is aimed not only at accelerating the socioeconomic development of individual countries, but also at deepening the integration processes and making more efficient use of the mighty potential created by the socialist community. The peoples in fraternal countries are becoming increasingly convinced of the fruitfulness of these processes. Broad opportunities are available now to create joint enterprises. The experience of the activity of the first Soviet-Bulgarian associations testifies to the great potential of this new form of cooperation.

Soviet people, the speaker went on, are persistently working to fulfill the plan for the 2d year of the 12th 5-Year Plan. This year is particularly important for our people. This is the year for implementing profound positive changes in the economy and for testing in practice the new approaches toward administration and economic management. This is the year of the Great October Socialist Revolution's 70th anniversary. Great October paved the highway that ensured the victory of new social relations, rapid industrial progress, and an upsurge in the education and culture of the broad people's masses.

Qualitatively new demands are made today of the work of cadres in all spheres of life and at all levels, of their political maturity and professional competence, their initiative and resourcefulness, their ability to work with people. This is why the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum focused all party work on the all-around improvement of cadre policy, the skillful mixing of experienced cadres and bold promotion of talented young people, the affirmation of democratic principles, the improvement of the moral and ethical atmosphere everywhere, and the development of publicity, criticism, and self-criticism. The party believes that one of its main tasks is to train new generations for the solution of the responsible problems which face us today and which will emerge in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. This is why there is a need to profoundly restructure the entire education system, bring training to the forefront of scientific and technical progress and production, and cultivate in young people lofty moral and political qualities and the ability to correctly analyze the most complex problems of contemporary social development.

The process of restructuring is not spontaneous. It relies on broad support by the masses, on initiative originating from below. At the same time, in order to ensure that restructuring becomes profound and irreversible, its fundamental principles must be given specific legislative expression and backing. The USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government have adopted a whole range of laws and resolutions aimed at improving economic relations, stepping up economic activity, and developing the initiative of labor collectives, cooperative forms of production, and individual labor activity.

A countrywide discussion is under way on the Law on the State Enterprise, whose adoption will help enhance the economic independence of labor collectives and establish broad democratic principles in their activity. Resolutions have been adopted by the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers which determine the galvanization of soviets' work, the enhancement of their role, and the stepping up of their responsibility for the comprehensive development of their territories. Soviets will become considerably more responsible for the implementation of strong social policy aimed at satisfying the greater material and spiritual demands of Soviet people.

We are profoundly convinced that socialism contains enormous creative potential, but this potential must be more fully activated with due consideration for the specific features of the present stage of social development. A growing role in this important work is played by the study of fraternal countries' experience. The joint experience of socialist building is our invaluable asset. Of course, at times we have to act under different conditions and take into account the specific historical features of our countries. At the same time, however, we are resolving common tasks. I can tell you that when elaborating a whole range of draft laws we most thoroughly studied the experience of fraternal countries, including Bulgaria.

There has been a particular growth in the role of studying experience in accelerating the economic, scientific, and technical development of fraternal countries. The current restructuring of the machinery of economic integration and CEMA activity, the utmost deepening of production, scientific, and technical cooperation and specialization; and the improvement of price formation and of currency, financial, and credit relations -- these developments create prerequisites for ensuring that the cooperation between fraternal countries is raised to a qualitatively new level.

We note with gratification the high level of Soviet-Bulgarian economic cooperation. On the basis of the Long-Term Program for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, the USSR and Bulgaria today are engaged in the implementation of 34 bilateral sector programs. This provides a basis for deepening production, scientific, and technical cooperation between associations, enterprises, and organizations using direct links and the creation of joint enterprises and international associations.

The accords reached in the course of meetings between Comrades M.S. Gorbachev and T. Zhivkov, general secretaries of our fraternal parties' Central Committees, are a most important factor for the all-round development of Soviet-Bulgarian cooperation. Important issues were also discussed at the 11 May meeting in Moscow.

In the course of the recent visit to the Soviet Union by G. Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, accord was reached on the elaboration of a concept of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the USSR and Bulgaria through the year 2000 in the context of a collective concept of division of labor within the socialist community over a period of 15-20 years. The purpose of this concept will be to ensure progressive and mutually complementary changes in both countries' national economic complexes. To put it briefly, we are accumulating experience and are learning to coordinate our efforts more efficiently and to cooperate well.

The coordination of fraternal countries' activity is also a necessary condition for implementing a policy which will ensure the preservation of peace on earth, mankind's salvation from nuclear catastrophe, and the creation of an all-embracing system of international security.

The Soviet Union's proposals and the fraternal countries' valuable initiatives receive the broadest international response. Thanks to the far-reaching proposals put forward in M.S. Gorbachev's 15 January 1986 statement, the position taken by the USSR at the Reykjavik meeting, and the subsequent flexible policy on disarmament issues, a new atmosphere has developed in the world, an atmosphere fettering the actions of the forces of militarism and aggression and creating real prerequisites for the reaching of accords aimed at reducing nuclear arms, freeing Europe from medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles, and eliminating chemical weapons.

We are grateful to the Bulgarian People's Republic for the support for our proposals on medium-range missiles and on missiles for operational and tactical purposes expressed in the statement by the Bulgarian National Assembly's Foreign Policy Commission.

Reaching accords on these missiles would make it possible to consolidate the atmosphere of trust and pave the way to a nuclear-free world for mankind. For this purpose it is necessary -- and this applies primarily to Washington -- to abandon imperial ambitions and hegemonist claims, anticommunist prejudices, attempts to dictate conditions to the whole world, and preparations for "Star Wars." We believe that the new political thinking will become a mobilizing force for all peoples in the world.

The USSR Supreme Soviet makes active use of its potential to bring the truth about the foreign policy of the Soviet state and of fraternal socialist countries to the knowledge of the millions, and to step up the efforts by parliamentarians in the struggle to strengthen international security. Interparliamentary exchanges have been significantly stepped up in recent times, and this reflects the desire by most states for mutual understanding and for quest for ways to ease international tension.

In conclusion P.N. Demichev conveyed fraternal greetings to those present from the working class, working people, and the entire Soviet people, wishing the combine's working people new successes in their work and in the fulfillment of the 13th BCP Congress decisions.

The delegation was afterwards briefed on the economic association's work on the manufacture of disc memory systems.

The delegation is accompanied on its tour by S. Todorov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the National Assembly.

BULGARIA'S ZHIVKOV, LUKYANENKO DISCUSS COOPERATION

PM161321 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Toward New Forms of Cooperation"]

[Text] Sofia, 14 May -- T. Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, has received V.M. Lukyanenko, USSR minister of chemical and petroleum machine building, here.

The meeting devoted special attention to the transition to qualitatively new forms of scientific and production cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of chemical and biotechnological machine building. Ways to implement the Soviet-Bulgarian accord on setting up a technical center for the dissemination of technologies, the training of cadres, and the exchange of information were discussed, as well as some questions relating to the technological updating of Bulgaria's chemical industry with the Soviet Union's assistance.

CONTINUING REPORTAGE ON CHIRAC'S MOSCOW VISIT

Chirac Speaks at Dinner

PM151531 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report on 14 May Kremlin dinner speech by French Prime Minister J. Chirac under the general heading: "In a Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Text] Mr General Secretary,
Mr Chairman of the Council of Ministers,
Messrs Ministers,
Esteemed ladies and gentlemen!

By repeating in June 1966 the trip which he made to your country at the end of the war General de Gaulle opened a new stage in the long history of our relations and established a special dialogue between the two countries.

This is why, more than 20 years later, I am pleased to be in this beautiful Kremlin hall today during my second official visit to Moscow. I know that each meeting between the USSR and France makes it possible to open a new page in the endless book of modern history. I believe that there are special moments for meeting a great nation, heeding the aspirations of its people, and understanding the intentions of its leaders. We are now living through one of these moments, because under the leadership of an entire collective of new leaders the Soviet Union is asserting its determination to carry out changes, modernization, and political renewal -- which attracts world public attention. For its part, France is following this process with special attention. This movement of renewal embracing your society proceeds from its depths and its living sources. This is confirmed, in particular, by the vital force and talent displayed by your creative intelligentsia, which attest to the dynamism of the Soviet Union's peoples.

The Soviet leaders, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and you, Mr chairman, confirm your determination to implement the program of transformations in the country. France seeks to better understand the ideas which inspire you.

My country has certain convictions and its own, historically conditioned world outlook. Our foreign policy principles, defined by Gen de Gaulle and now approved by all French people, have not changed.

France has international obligations, which it intends to fulfill with complete freedom of judgment and action. Its independence is conditioned by the ability to ensure its own defense, thanks to the force of nuclear deterrence and the fruit of national efforts which have been made with constancy and determination for more than 30 years now. Expressing profound solidarity with Western nations which share the same ideals and respect the same values, it cannot reconcile itself either to the split in Europe or to the fruitless confrontation between blocs. Throughout the planet it intends to promote the preservation or restoration of peace, particularly in the Near East, where, like you, it supports the idea of organizing an international conference.

Everything must help to make natural the dialogue between two countries which during their history have been mutually enriched through their differences. Stemming from two branches of Christian civilization, in the past our cultures drew on the sources of European thought in the "age of enlightenment." [paragraph continues]

The clashes during the age of Napoleon, immoralized by Tolstoy, added to our traditions only the desire to avoid a repetition of the past.

During this century our nations have twice fought side by side. They shared the same hopes in the grave trial which you call the Great Patriotic War. On Saturady I will honor the memory of the Soviet soldiers and their comrades in arms from "fighting France" who gave their lives in the common struggle against Nazism under the banner of the "Normandie-Neman" Squadron. These memories are alive in my country. They will always lend our dialogue a special quality and dimension.

The chief question which French people ask themselves on listening to you and looking at you fits into this background. Can we really establish an East-West climate of genuine trust which will ever enable us to surmount the division of our continent? Please forgive me for speaking frankly with you. Of course, there is no ready answer to such a question. Two aspects of your policy will undoubtedly play a determining role.

The first aspect concerns human rights and basic freedoms. The 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen is the most important element of our national heritage. We also believe in the universal significance of the ideals which it expresses: freedom of thought and speech, freedom of religion, the right of everyone to free movement, including to leave the country or return to it -- all these demands are deeply rooted inour hearts and minds.

A considerable number of agonizing cases have been settled in past months. I have stated publicly, and repeatedly, how highly France rates such measures. You know, of course, that it is our opinion that much still has to be done throughout Europe to realize the principles jointly laid down in Helsinki 12 years ago.

The second aspect concerns respect for the independence and sovereignty of states, as well as the people's right to self-determination. My country knows too well the price of its own sovereignty to be disrespectful of another's. This is why it cannot close its eyes to cases where this right is jeopardized anywhere in the world.

In this connection how can I not broach the question of the situation in Afghanistan? Your government has declared its readiness to withdraw its troops from that country, and France welcomes this. A real and rapid return of Soviet troops to the motherland from that country, providing an opportunity for the Afghan people's self-determination, would be a very important initiative on your part. Such an initiative would make a decisive contribution to changing the general tone of international relations. It would create a climate of trust capable of strengthening and developing the East-West dialogue.

This dialogue primarily concerns the question of disarmament -- a sphere in which your country has repeatedly advanced insistent appeals in favor of far-reaching measures since last year. On the initiative of Gen de Gaulle a quarter-century ago France proclaimed the right of every country to ensure its security. For this our country has gradually created an independent nuclear deterrent force, which enables it to defend its vital interests under any circumstances. As distinct from the excessive strategic arsenals in the possession of the two greatest powers, it in turn limits itself just to what is strictly necessary to deter potential aggression.

While being independent, France nevertheless intends to remain true to its obligations and alliances. [paragraph continues]

The numerous bonds by which it has tied itself to its European neighbors make it express greater solidarity with their fate than ever. The Franco-German reconciliation sealed by Gen de Gaulle and Chancellor Andenauer led to the removal of one of the chief causes of clashes and dissension in Europe. That course, now irreversible, gives all European peoples and, in particular, the young people of our countries, an example and hope. France is also devoted to the alliance with the United States, which has twice given it decisive support to preserve its freedom.

Experience has shown that conventional arms have never been enough to curb people's insanity and prevent war. Are we not obliged to the strength of nuclear deterrence for the fact that our continent has lived in peace for more than 40 years now, despite crises which sometimes make us fear the worst? Of course, the fact that people are held back from crazy actions by the threat of total annihilation satisfies neither the heart nor the mind. But it is the duty of responsible leaders to proceed from the realities as they are.

It is precisely on the basis of this reality that my country determines the policy which it intends to pursue in the disarmament sphere. France sees no contradiction between its adherence to the force of deterrence and activity in favor of disarmament. Disarmament can only be the result of long-term efforts, because strategic and military factors change too slowly. Disarmament makes sense only if it helps to strengthen our countries' security by leveling out the imbalances which give rise to instability.

Of course, France -- and this hardly needs amplifying -- advocates a nuclear arms reduction and the establishment of a balance at the lowest possible level compatible with universal security. Proceeding from this, it welcomed the accord between the USSR and the United States based on the principle of the almost total elimination of their medium-range nuclear forces. However, it wants such an agreement to be global, verifiable [proveryayemyy], and impossible to circumvent. But the chief thing remains the fact that the Soviet Union and the United States must strive to substantially reduce the strategic arsenals which they have stockpiled. France has already declared that it would regard their real reduction by 50 percent, as envisaged in Reykjavik, as a decisive success. For this both sides must undoubtedly also reach an accord on preserving the ABM Treaty, with mutually acceptable amendments if necessary.

In addition, the president of the French Republic set forth here, in Moscow, what our country regards as obligatory conditions for France's joining in the nuclear disarmament process. These conditions are well known to you. Under no circumstances will France agree to its nuclear force being taken into account, directly or indirectly, in negotiations without its participation.

Another priority task undoubtedly concerns the reduction of imbalances in the spheres of conventional arms and chemical weapons in Europe. Approximately 10 years ago France proposed convening a conference on disarmament in Europe in accordance with our approach, which I just mentioned. As a result of our consistent efforts, confidence-building measures were adopted last year which were the first important East-West accord in this sphere for many years. The time has come to examine the question of whether it is possible to agree on the aims of the new stage within the CSCE framework.

What I have said differs little from the statements which the British Prime Minister made a few weeks ago. In all my talks with responsible figures in European countries I sense the same concern and the same convictions. This coincidence is no accident. It is the natural consequence of the creative efforts which the countries of West Europe have now been making on the European Continent for more than 30 years.

The building of Europe is a natural development of events. The formation of a unified market by the end of 1992 will be a decisive stage in this process. However, the efforts of 12 states are not limited to the economic sphere. They are also evidence of an awareness of our common destiny.

The Soviet Union has long recognized the Europe of the 12 states as an economic reality. I note with satisfaction that the Soviet Union now also recognizes it as a political reality.

This Europe wants to live in peace. It wants the principles on which its security is based to be understood and acknowledged. It intends to do everything necessary to ensure that its voice is heard in discussions affecting its interests. It will not begrudge any efforts to establish trust among all peoples from the Atlantic to the Urals.

There is no doubt that the Soviet Union and France bear particular responsibility in this respect for the development of the dialogue to which all Europeans aspire. Our industrially developed societies often give rise to the same aspirations and concerns. Modern communication means take increasingly little account of borders. It would be a pity if our two countries did not strive together with their partners to resolve the problems facing all of us.

Preserve the environment, conquer new diseases as yet incurable, prevent the spread of drug addiction, and develop new forms of energy for the future -- these are just some of the areas in which our peoples could combine their efforts for the general good.

We are faced with an even more difficult task, however. We must become really aware of the growing poverty afflicting whole regions of our planet, because this is one of the main problems of our time affecting man's dignity and even his survial. France considers its the indispensable duty of developed countries in both East and West to help the most unfortunate states to overcome their ordeals and difficulties. Is this not a great mission we could define together? I personally believe it it.

Moreover, the new aims you have set your selves open up broad possibilities for cooperation between our two countries. They must give new impetus to cultural and scientific exchanges and give back to our economic and trade relations the dynamism which they have lost in recent years. These are my wishes for the future.

I have spoken frankly with you today. This frankness is commensurate with the enormous interest aroused in the West by the Soviet leadership's new approach. I intend to conduct my conversations with Mr M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee -- conversationos to which I attach great significance -- in the same spirit of openness [otkrytost] and sincerity. As Gen de Gaulle remarked in his war memoires, "Success cannot be attained without the support of truth."

What you are now doing in your country is giving rise, I am sure, to great hopes in the USSR itself and throughout the world. France very sincerely wishes you success in your restructuring policy.

The prime minister proposed a toast in honor of our country's peoples, M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and in honor of friendship between our two countries.

AFP on Speech

AU141959 Paris AFP in English 1944 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Moscow, May 14 (AFP) -- French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac raised human rights issues, disarmament and Franco-Soviet relations during a dinner speech at the Kremlin shortly after his arrival here on Thursday for a three-day visit.

In the surprise presence of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who had not been scheduled to attend the dinner, Mr. Chirac told his hosts he wanted to speak openly and sincerely during his visit.

He praised the recent release of "several prisoners of conscience," the regulation of a number of "painful cases" and the more liberal approach to Jews who wanted to emigrate.

"I have said publicly on a number of occasions how much France appreciates these measures. However, as you know, from our point of view there remains a lot to do," Mr. Chirac said.

He said the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan would represent a "major initiative" by the Soviet Government.

On disarmament, Mr. Chirac said France believed in a policy of nuclear dissuasion, "experience having taught us that classical arms have never been enough to prevent war."

He said France would not allow its nuclear weaponry to be included in negotiations in which France did not participate.

Mr. Chirac also raised the possibility of relaunching cultural and scientific exchanges between Fance and the Soviet Union and an improvement in economic and commercial relations, following the "new directions" taken by Moscow.

The dinner held in Mr. Chirac's honour was hosted by the French leader's Soviet counterpart Nikolay Ryzhkov, who despite Mr. Gorbachev's presence, made the reply speech to the French Prime Minister.

French policies, particularly concerning nuclear disarmament, contained some "worrying elements," Mr. Ryzhkov said.

Mr. Ryzhkov called on France to prove its "political courage" and "to look beyond today's horizon" on the disarmament issue.

Concerning human rights the Soviet politican denounced the "reticence" of Paris over Moscow's proposition for an international conference on humanitarian problems, and asked France for a "greater opening of spirit" on the issue.

The prime minister, after referring to recent tit-for-tat expulsions by Moscow and Paris, said that "Franco-Soviet cooperation is today being severely tested."

AFP on Chirac-Gorbachev Talks

AU151536 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 15 May 87

[Anne Penketh report]

[Text] Moscow, May 15 (AFP) -- French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev disagreed on disarmament during more than four hours of "very frank" talking at the Kremlin on Friday, the French premier told reporters here.

But France's position on disarmament "is better understood, although not better accepted" by the Soviets, he added.

Mr Chirac, who has been taken to task by Soviet authorities for his government's reticence concerning the latest Soviet offer to eliminate shorter-range intermediate-range nuclear forces (SRINF) in a deal with longer-range INF based in Europe, did not openly state France's opposition to the Soviet offer. SRINF have a 500-1,000 kilomtre (310 to 620 mile) range, and the LRINF 1,000 kms - 5,000 kms (up to 3100 miles).

Sovier Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov said in a banquet speech Thursday night, following Mr Chirac's arrival, that France's attachment to the nuclear deterrent doctrine, and particularly its policy concerning nuclear missiles, contained "worrying elements."

Mr. Gorbachev was also present at the banquet, in a gesture appreciated by Mr. Chirac according to high-ranking French officials. The Soviet leader had not been scheduled to attend.

Noting that Paris was not directly involved by the U.S.-Soviet talks on intermediate missiles, Mr. Chirac said on SRINF that France was "sensitive to European solidarity" and France "would finally decide through concertation with its allies," notably the West German government, which is currently split on this issue.

NATO defence ministers Friday would up a meeting in Norway of the alliance's Nuclear Planning Group which debated the U.S.-Soviet proposals in Geneva, and issued a statement expressing support for elimination of longer-range Euromissiles.

On SRINF, the statement backed away from approving the Soviet call for elimination, saying that "appropriate global constraints on shorter-range missiles are indispensable" for the security of the West to maintain parity with the Eastern bloc, which has a superiority in conventional weaponry.

Before the talks with Mr. Gorbachev on Friday, Mr. Chirac met with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrey Sakharov for a few minutes at the Academy of Sciences here. The two discussed cases of Soviet prisoners of conscience, and Mr. Sakharov expressed concern that the release of such prisoners had stopped.

Mr. Chirac quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying that the disarmament discussions had given each side "food for thought". French sources close to the talks said "both sides stuck to their positions," and Mr. Chirac acknowledged that "differences remained."

On bilateral relations, which had been clouded by the recent Ariane spying affair, Mr. Chirac said his conversations with Mr. Gorbachev had "cleared up some misunderstandings."

He said that with the open personality of Mr. Gorbachev, "there were no difficulties understanding each other." When asked about the nature of the misunderstandings, Mr. Chirac said this concerned some statements by certain French personalities, an apparent allusion to remarks criticizing Moscow by two French ministries.

However, the Ariane affair, which led to the tit-for-tat expulsion of six Soviet nationals and six French nationals by each capital, was not discussed in Friday's meeting, he said.

Nor had they discussed Mr. Sakharov's comments on political prisoners.

The Soviet authorities in February announced the release of 150 political prisoners, and said that the cases of 150 others were under review. But according to dissident sources, little more than 100 have actually been freed.

Mr. Chirac noted that he had raised the question of human rights, Jewish emigration and political prisoners generally in his own banquet speech. However the Communist Party daily PRAVDA in its Friday edition cut out these references, in an unusual departure from the "glasnost", or openness, espoused by Mr. Gorbachev.

On bilateral issues, Mr. Gorbachev "had not concealed" the fact that in recent years Franco-Soviet relations had been in decline, and the two had resolved to make efforts to improve them on all fronts.

Asked whether he detected a change in the climate between the two countries, Mr. Chirac said "I very much hope so," but added that "the climate is excellent."

Mr. Chirac would not echo the phrase coined by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher -- who visited the Soviet Union in March -- "here is a man one can do business with", referring to Mr. Gorbachev and his style. But he said that in contrast with Mr. Gorbachev's predecessors, "you can convince him, and he can convince you" in "a real dialogue".

IZVESTIYA CITES AFP ON DROPPING OF SPY CASE

PM151324 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "AFP Comments"]

[Text] AFP, citing reliable sources, reports:

The expulsion from France of six Soviet diplomats at the beginning of April has no connection with any attempts to steal secrets about the Ariane rockets. As for the "Verdier case," this, it is noted in the report of the DST (the counterintelligence service) which has appeared, is connected with personal, "intimate" circumstances. P. Verdier, the report says, "should have been deemed innocent."

This information, AFP comments, which "could lead to the ending of the case involving Ludmilla Varigina due to the lack of elements of a crime, appeared 2 days before the visit of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to the Soviet Union."

SOVIET TANKER HITS MINE IN GULF; NO CASUALTIES

LD171415 Moscow TASS in English 1407 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Kuwait City May 17 TASS -- The Soviet oil tanker "Marshal Chuykov" hit a sea mine in the Persian Gulf last night.

The accident occurred approximately 35 miles from Kuwait's coast.

The blast made a large hole in the ship's bottom but caused no casualties among the crew.

The tanker is being towed to the port of Kuwait.

GORBACHEV GIVES PLEDGE TO AL-ASAD ON CONFERENCE

JN161752 Kuwait AL-QABAS on Arabic 16 May 87 pp 1, 22

[Text] Paris -- Well-informed Arab sources have revealed to AL-QABAS that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has given Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad an official pledge that the USSR will not accept the convocation of an international peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict without Syria's participation and affirmed that the Soviet leadership is not in a hurry about holding an international conference prior to the materialization of all the necessary conditions for such a conference.

This pledge, which Gorbachev gave to Al-Asad during the Syrian president's recent visit to Moscow at the end of last month, is not merely a verbal pledge, but is of special political significance and constitutes a very important element at a time when the region is witnessing various inter-Arab, U.S., Soviet, and international contacts to secure the convocation of an international conference. The information which AL-QABAS obtained from well-informed Arab sources reveals that Gorbachev gave this pledge for three basic reasons:

1. Soviet and Syrian officials have acquired information about a strong current within the U.S. Administration, led by Secretary of State George Shultz, which hopes an Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli conference will be held without the participation of Syria and the PLO and will lead to an agreement on the future o the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Palestinans. The sources said this current is ostensibly feigning support for holding an international conference as a prelude to direct Arab-Israeli negotiations, while in fact banking on the rejection of Syria and the PLO to attend this conference. This would pave the way for holding an Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli conference in Washington under U.S. auspices to discuss the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The sources added that though Jordan refuses to respond to such a view, the U.S. current is continuing actively in this direction -- a direction which Shim'on Peres, Israeli deputy prime minister and foreign minister, does not actually oppose and which responds to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's ideas and concepts.

The Soviet pledge to President Al-Asad was intended as an obstacle in the face of this U.S. attempt on the grounds the USSR will not confine itself to boycotting such a conference but will work diplomatically and politically in Arab and international arenas against the conference. The sources pointed out the USSR holds at present important cards that enable it to obstruct the covert U.S. endeavors.

2. Gorbachev's pledge to Al-Asad is also aimed at stressing to the Syrian president that Moscow will not agree to participate in any bogus international peace conference in which the USSR's role would be that of a false witness, blessing the initiation of a Jordanian-Israeli peace process similar to the Egyptian-Israeli peace process that led to the signing of the Camp David Accords.

AL-QABAS has learned from informed Arab sources that Gorbachev has told Al-Asad that the Soviet leadership is not in a hurry about holding an international peace conference and that it prefers to wait rather than participate in a bogus international peace conference -- a conference the United States wants. What the Soviet officials want is a true international peace conference which plays a supportive role in Arab-Israeli negotiations and in guaranteeing any agreement to be reached during these negotiations.

3. Gorbachev's pledge to Al-Asad also means the Soviet leadership is confident the Reagan administration will not be able to start a new peace process in the region without the cooperation of and coordination with Moscow. The sources pointed out the Soviet confidence does not stem from Soviet analysis of the current U.S. role in the Middle East, which has lost much of its credibility and has become unable to repeat the experiments of Carter and Kissinger, but from affirmations Moscow and Damascus received from senior Jordanian officials to the effect that King Husayn will not agree, in any form, to become another Al-Sadat -- that is, to negotiate with Israel outside the framework of a genuine international peace conference without an understanding with Syria or without securing wide Arab support for such negotiations.

According to Gorbachev's pledge to Al-Asad, either there will be an international peace conference attended by Syria, representatives for the Palestinians approved by the new PLO leadership, and other parties to the conflict, or the international conference will not see light. The Soviets believe there are no sufficient genuine elements which make it possible to start a new peace process not approved by Moscow, Damascus, and the PLO. This Soviet stand will be one of the topics Vladimir Polyakov, official in charge at the Soviet Foreign Ministry of Middle Eastern Affairs, will discuss with Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern Affairs, during their coming meeting expected to be held in a European capital.

'FAILURE' OF MURPHY MIDEAST MISSION NOTED

LD162158 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 May 87

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Aleksandr Timoshkin]

[Text] The visit by Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, to the Arab countries in the Gulf region has ended in failure. Richard Murphy could not reduce the negative reaction of the Arabs toward the Irangate case. Murphy recognized that it will take a long time to recover the reputation of the United States in a region disfigured by the secret supplies of U.S. arms to Iran.

I can say that Murphy could not convince the Arab leaders in the Gulf region of the sincerity of Washington's endeavors to help put an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict and (?settle it) politically.

The U.S. diplomat failed to convince the Arab leaders that Irangate would not be repeated. It is known that the U.S. arms supplies to Iran continued after the exposure of the Irangate case.

Richard Murphy also failed in his attempt to impose U.S. military protection on the Arab countries in the Gulf region under the pretext of guaranteeing security and the freedom of navigation. The Arabs are of the view that this is something that requires permission, and I point out that the Soviet Union supports this stand.

Just as before, the abyss is very deep between the United States' position and that of the Arabs concerning the participation of the PLO in a Mideast settlement. The Arab countries insist on the PLO's participation on an equal basis with all the sides concerned in an international conference on the Middle East, as a sole and legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people. As for Washington, it rejects the PLO's right in that, and calls it a terrorist organization. I remind you, ladies and gentlemen, that the U.S. Administration does not agree on the establishment of an independent Palestinian Arab state in the homelands, and calls at the same time for the preservation of a unified Jerusalem, thus officially supporting the Zionist desires to preserve Jerusalem as an eternal unified capital for Israel.

At last, the Arab leaders in their talks with Richard Murphy rejected the attempts of the two strategic allies to use the international Middle East conference to cloak bilateral Israeli-Arab negotiations, in an individual policy based on the Camp David collusion.

IZVESTIYA EXPLORES FUTURE OF NEAR EAST CONFLICTS

PM141053 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by Doctor of Historical Sciences A. Vasilyev, deputy director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Africa Institute, under the rubric "Problems and Opinions": "Near East: There Is a Way Out of the Impasse"]

[Text] In alphabetical order: Egypt, Israel, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria. What unites these states? First, they are all situated in one strategically important region rich in natural resources but overloaded with acute, sometimes bloody, conflicts that seriously undermine international security and complicate solving today's fundamental problems. The central conflict is the Arab-Israeli conflict, one of the oldest and most complex, although it is sometimes overshadowed by the Iran-Iraq war. Second, all the countries listed above could in the early 21st century possess the technology for producing nuclear weapons. Indeed, in the opinion of the majority of experts, Israel has already become a nuclear state. At the end of 1979, together with the racist RSA, it carried out a nuclear explosion in the South Atlantic and is now stockpiling an arsenal of warheads. If that is so, then scarcely anyone can guarantee that under the conditions of fierce confrontation the Near East conflict will not start to slide toward a nuclear one.

The gamble on military strength to settle the conflict has been totally discredited. To prevent mutual destruction in the future, it would seem necessary to strive to ensure that they present contradictions, acute enough in themselves, are not aggravated with the passage of time but weakened. It would seem necessary to reach agreement on a political settlement, on settling the conflict today to save ourselves tomorrow, to find in ourselves the strength and to elaborae a new thinking in accordance with the level of the threat and not to view the Near East as a testing range for modeling U.S. imperial policy and for manipulating the level of tension and confrontation. But these sensible considerations entail questions regarding the terms and principles on which an agreement should be reached and regarding the mechanism with which it should be reached.

Until recently the Israeli leadership's foreign policy doctrine was based on "the law of the fist" backed up by the temporary technological and organizational superiority of the small country relying on the transatlantic support of its "strategic ally." The country that is "permitted everything" is at any rate permitted what is not allowed to other members of the international community -- aggression, seizing territories by force, driving indigenous inhabitants from their land, military actions against neighbors, and ignoring UN decisions.

Is the Israeli leadership interested in peace? Perhaps it is, but what kind of peace? By "peace" it means the recognition and the enshrinement in international law of its "special" "rights" and privileges not permitted to others which we have just discussed. The method for imposing this kind of "peace" is military blackmail, separate deals in which the strong dictates his will to the weak. The perniciousness of this practice is obvious. The correlation of forces is not permanent and no one can guarantee that a foreign policy concession made by some government under threat will not be overturned by the population. Ultimately the masses of humanity could play the same role in the Arab-Israeli conflict that they played in the Iranian revolution. Then the technological supremacy of a small country with a meager population will no longer be able to ensure the former correlation of forces. Finally the actual principle of driving the enemy into a corner contradicts both political wisdom and common sense. Any long-term political solution should provide for a compromise and not a diktat in order not to encroach on the peoples' national rights, generate feelings of humiliation, or sow the seeds of future conflicts.

The Israeli-Egyptian separate agreement formally established "peace" between the two countries on Israeli terms. Without examining its consequences for the region as a whole and the fate of the Arab people of Palestine, let us note that there is a long way to go to genuine peace between the two peoples. Israel is in fact being boycotted by all Egyptian society and the growth of Muslim sentiments in Egypt is leading to the intensification of the nonacceptance of the state of Israel. As for Lebanon, it has refused the separate agreement foisted on it at gunpoint.

It is obvious that the continuation of the conflict or an attempt to impose a "peace Israeli-style" or "pax Americana" through separate deals contradicts the correctly understood interests of all sides in the short and especially the long term. The interests of all sides including the Israeli people. It may be objected that the majority of that country's population supports the present leadership and consequently its course. Indeed, in the atmosphere of hysteria created by the mass media, in the atmosphere of a barracks state which has put itself inside an enemy encirclement, as a result of the militarist processing of the masses with emphasis on religious fanaticism and nationalism, chauvinist sentiments have gripped the majority of Israelis. [paragraph continues]

But Israeli society is far from homogenous and its evolution is possible. In this situation the genuine interests of the people and the country are expressed not by this majority but by the minority demanding a political settlement. Historical precedents for sentiments of this kind exist -- if only the support given by the majority of French people for France's colonial war in Algeria -- but victory ultimately went to the realistically minded minority. It persuaded the majority of the nation that it was right.

But if an end must be put to the conflict, a specific mechanism is needed for the purpose.

The Soviet Union advocates an international conference, which has been urged for several years in succession by the UN General Assembly. Critics call the Soviet proposals "propaganda" or "pro-Arab." But at best they are failing to read these proposals attentively and at worst they are deliberately distorting them. The Soviet Union's position is not "for the Arabs" but for a principled approach toward the Near East conflict, for the inadmissibility of aggression and the seizure of other people's lands by force, for a peaceful solution, for the observance of the legitimate interests of the Arabs and the Israelis on the basis of the principles of international law, for the establishment of peace and security in the region. If you read our proposals on the principles for a settlement carefully they by no means envisage flouting Israel's rights and security. Peace cannot be established in this region by using force and imposing on the sides a will that is hostile to them.

Some people claim that the projected international conference is a "Soviet invention" and that its purpose is as a propaganda display and a show trial against Israel. The assessment of Israel's actions by the Soviet Union and by the international community is well known and has not changed. But international conferences, including a conference on the Near East, are convened to seek mutually acceptable solutions.

The countries will come to the conference by no means to raise questions that simply cannot be the subject of discussion. In particular Israel's duty to fulfill Security Council Resolution No 242 and to liberate all Arab lands occupied in 1967 is not a subject for discussion. The right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination, recognized by the world public, is not subject to discussion. The very fact of the existence of the state of Israel cannot be open to discussion.

In a region of such acute conflicts as the Near East the rights of all people to independence, sovereignty, and the independent choice of their path of development must undoubtedly be respected. Here it is essential to formulate ideas and elaborate confidence-building measures between states, to establish effective guarantees of the inviolability of borders and the prevention of aggression. Here more than anywhere there is a need to find successful methods to put an end to international terrorism and its various forms, above all state terrorism. Bilateral meetings could be held within the framework of the conference and compromises and even unexpected solutions are possible.

Of course, it is above all the sides directly involved in the conflict that must reach accords among themselves. Yet over long decades they have been unable to reach an all-embracing settlement for which the world community is calling. [paragraph continues]

That is why the participation of authoritative members of the UN Security Council, primarily the USSR and the United States, is called on to promote its success. In addition both the USSR and the United States have legitimate interests in the Near East. What we are talking of is indeed legitimate interests connected with economic and other relations of the USSR and the United States with countries of the region, and not domination and subjection, not the creation of military alliances or military bases, not privileges.

The Arab countries have no doubts as to the need for the Soviet Union's participation in the conference. In Israel some people are rashly setting "preliminary conditions" for this, demanding in particular the restoration of diplomatic relations. Incidentally, their lack cannot be considered normal. Yet it was Israel's fault that the break occurred. It was the result of aggression against the Arab countries. The USSR unambiguously acknowledges -- to the same extent as it does for all states -- Israel's right to peace and a secure existence. At the same time as before the Soviet Union is categorically opposed to the policy of force and annexations that Tel Aviv is pursuing. Changes in relations with Israel are conceivable only within the mainstream of the process of Near East settlement.

The possibility of convening a conference and in particular its success depend on the coordination of actions, persistence, and activeness of the Arab countries taking part in the conflict and on the unity of the PLO. The last meeting of the Palestinian organizations held in Algeria shows that the idea of the need for unity has begun to prevail in the majority of factions of the Palestine Resistance movement.

The need to convene an international conference has met with support in the Arab countries and in many capitals of Western Europe. The implementation of the proposal to create a preparatory committee with the participation of all permanent members of the UN Security Council could be a practical step in this direction. It has met with the support of the UN General Assembly, the eighth nonaligned conference, and the Islamic Conference Organization conference in Kuwait. Even Washington and Tel Aviv have begun to talk of their possible participation in the conference while, it is true, setting terms and putting forward aims which give rise to doubts as to whether these "strategic allies" want the conference to succeed.

The actions and statements of Tel Aviv and Washington in connection with the conference can be interpreted as the desire not for a settlement but for the intensification of confrontation, not for a compromise but for the same old bankrupt methods of diktat.

Skeptics say: Even if the conference convenes there are no guarantees of its success. But what can they propose instead? War? Bloodshed? The creation of "bantustans" on the West Bank of the Jordan and in Gaza following the example of South Africa? New flare-ups of the conflict, chaos, and a vicious circle of violence?

There is no alternative to a conference, that is to the collective quest for a political settlement. That is the only way out of the impasse. The time has come to embark on careful, painstaking preparatory work.

To implement in reality the desire of all peoples of the region for a peaceful settlement, security, and life within internationally recognized borders, the political leaders must discard their old dogmas and stereotypes in thinking and in their methods of action and embark on the path of a search for a settlement. Apart from fanatics everyone loses out from the continuation of the conflict and its dragging out, subjecting themselves to a terrible danger. Everyone stands to gain from a settlement through compromise.

SHEVARDNADZE TO VISIT BRAZIL IN OCTOBER

PY090152 Paris AFP in Spanish 2137 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 8 May (AFP) -- Jose Aparecido de Oliveira, governor of the federal district Brasilia, told AFP here today that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will pay an official visit to Brazil in October. Shevardnadze will make this visit in response to a visit that former Brazilian Foreign Minister Olavo Edigio Setubal paid to the Soviet Union in December 1985. At that time, the two countries signed the first Soviet-Brazilian economic and technical cooperation agreement and a memorandum establishing regular political consultations between the two governments.

The governor of Brasilia, who arrived on 7 May on a 1-week visit to the USSR, yesterday met with Moscow Mayor Valery Saikin, with whom he discussed urban problems and the strengthening of ties between the two capital cities. Saikin will visit Brazil in September. A friendship agreement between Moscow and Brasilia will be signed on this occasion, according to Oliveira.

CUBAN ENVOY VISITS WORKERS IN SOVIET FAR EAST

FL140225 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 May 87

[By Ismael Tantao, correspondent in the USSR]

[Text] Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and Cuban ambassador to the USSR, has visited the areas where Cuban forestry groups will work. Here is the first group of construction workers who will create the essential living and working conditions for our forestry specialists and workers. It was a very emotional meeting. Camacho showed interest in each of the subjects that concern all, such as health, spare time, leisure activities, sports, and characteristics of their working tools.

The chief of the Cuban diplomatic mission in the Soviet Union, together with Comrade (Nyopopoyev), party secretary for the industrial branch in the territory, said he believed this great task will be [words indistinct] of all the wills. The PCC Politburo member said that we will have to turn (Sutpai) in the capital of Cuban-Soviet forestry development cooperation. The idea of Cuban citizens cutting wood in Soviet territory came up some years ago. Comrade Camacho Aquilera told us about this.

[Camacho] The first time I heard Comrade Fidel talk about this idea was about 8 years ago, if I remember correctly. Now I can see what Fidel had in mind turn into reality. This incipient reality will surely continue being successful for the benefit of Cuba, which needs the product of this effort, and for the benefit of the Soviet brothers, who also need to broaden the development of the Soviet Far East.

MOSCOW REPORTS SOVIET-CUBAN COOPERATION MEETING

PY061645 Moscow in Spanish to Cuba 0100 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] The regular sessions of the Soviet-Cuban intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation began today in the Soviet capital.

We have contacted the correspondent of the newspaper GRANMA in Moscow, Jose Gabriel Guzman, to report on the first day of sessions of the commission for the listeners of our Radio Moscow Reports and Comments program.

[Begin Guzman recording] I believe that a Cuban correspondent in Moscow does not spend a day without reflecting on some type of cooperation in the economic, scientific-technical, or other fields between the two nations.

The 17th session of the Cuban-Soviet governmental commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation began today here in Moscow.

This commission is chaired by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers. On the Soviet side, this commission is chaired by Vladimir [last name indistinct], a member of the CPSU Central Committee and the vice chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers.

The first (session) was held at 1815. The two sides assessed the [words indistinct] of the commercial relations between the two nations which for [words indistinct] as the satisfactory fulfillment of the commitments for the respective supplies.

Also discussed was the implementation in Cuba of a group of important economic projects, which recently were planned with the cooperation of the Soviet Union.

These projects include a new sugar mill in Las Tunas province, the (?gas) pipelines in Havana and Holguin Provinces and several fairly important projects in the electrical and oil-refining industries.

The commission also reviewed a number of measures aimed at increasing efficiency in the development of important projects that will be implemented in Cuba beginning in 1987. [end recording]

Jose Gabriel Guzman, correspondent of the newspaper GRANMA, has commented by telephone on the outcome of the first working session of the intergovernmental commission that supervises scientific-technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Agreements Signed

PY062300 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Dear Listeners, the Soviet-Cuban intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation met in Moscow on 29 and 30 April. The committee reviewed a wide range of topics dealing with the promotion of bilateral relations. A protocol and two agreements for the creation and operation of joint Soviet-Cuban companies in Cuban territory were signed today.

After the session, Soviet Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman Vladimir Kamentsev discussed the signficance of the agreements. Kamentsev said:

Not only did we analyze what has already been done, but we also made decisions about future measures. We reviewed the qualitative changes in our bilateral cooperation to make them more effective.

In addition, we analyzed new ways of cooperation. I believe we can say that the questions that were raised and the documents that were signed will be very significant for our future bilateral cooperation, Kamentsev concluded.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who is a member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and the vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Council of Ministers, discussed the session.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] I believe we can say that we found a proper way to celebrate 1 May [words indistinct] international and with our efforts (?to preserve justice). It has emphasized the main aspects of our work.

I would like to add that our approach has been based on constructive criticism. We tried to identify the cause of our mistakes and we tried to correct them, that is, we worked with [words indistinct]. We can say that we have great confidence in the future.

Not only do we count on the efforts of the leaders of the two nations who are working for the common objective of promoting Cuban development [words indistinct] that Cuba can export to the USSR, but we also are sure that we can count on the efforts of the workers, scientists, and technicians of the two countries. Even though this effort is obviously more important for Cuba, it remains a joint undertaking.

As an interpreter of the guidelines issued by Comrade Fidel Castro and of the spirit with which the Cuban people have received the decisions made by our third party congress, I can tell you that after this meeting we will concentrate on correcting our mistakes and on consolidating our achievements.

This meeting has shown that in Cuba we did a good job in several areas, seeking to promote our joint efforts and to take advantage of the cooperation that the USSR has permanently offered us from the beginning of our revolution.

I wish a happy 1 May to you, to our Soviet comrades, and to all our Cuban friends, filled with the hopes nurtured by the renewal that socialism is undergoing everywhere, and strengthened by the spirit of international cooperation that imbues our relations. [end recording]

PCC's Rodriguez' Statement

PY090236 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Three documents on the development of Soviet-Cuban cooperation have been signed in the Soviet capital. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo and vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, talks about this important event in the life of our two countries.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Comrade Kamentsev and I just signed the protocol of the 17th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission of Cuban-Soviet Cooperation and two other agreements. The agreements will determine the regulations to be established for joint enterprises. Comrade (Melendez) and his counterpart (Gregov Salbotron) signed the respective agreements [words indistinct] in Cuba, which will be the first joint enterprise between the two countries.

The first document is important because it makes a critical and analytical evaluation of the results of Cuban-Soviet cooperation in 1986 and outlines the basic guidelines of our future work. The result of our discussions is the following: It has been verified that our cooperation is improving, although there are some flaws which we are willing to overcome with a spirit of constructive criticism.

We evaluated the problems of foreign trade, the problems related to electronics and the nuclear power plant being built in Cienfuegos with Soviet cooperation, and the problems of the Ernesto Che Guevara Plant in (Punta Gorda) for nickel production. We also studied the problems of scientific and technical cooperation and the problems of some of the enterprises which we established with Soviet cooperation. Specifically, we began to study the operation of the enterprises of the metal-working industries, which are receiving Soviet cooperation in Cuba. We are going to continue to evaluate all the Soviet-Cuban plants to put them at their highest level of productivity in order to take full advantage of their capacity.

In other words, we have drawn up a broad work program. Representatives of practically all organizations of the national economy came here. As everyone knows, Soviet cooperation is evident all over Cuba [words indistinct] and Cuban development depends basically on efforts and cooperation with other socialist countries. The main role is played by the Soviet Union. This is why this meeting was very important for the development of our economy.

Regarding joint enterprises, this is a new method of cooperation that we will implement. The first plan will be one for producing (texina) based on the projects for the exploitation of citrus crops in (Hawaii Grande) with the cooperation of Cuban food industry and the [words indistinct] of the Soviet Union, which is the central organization that gathers agriculture and industry. Therefore, we have taken an important step in the economic cooperation between our countries. The agreement set the general guidelines [words indistinct] and companies are already being planned for the production of resins and [words indistinct] also citric acid. Contrary to what is believed, this is not a byproduct of citrus but a byproduct of sugarcane. This is the result of the meeting. We are very pleased with the joint work with our Soviet comrades, with Comrade Kamentsev. We are certain that the conclusions of the 27th CPSU congress and the Third Congress of the Cuban Communist Party related to the cooperation between our two countries will be successfully fulfilled. [end recording]

You just heard Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo and vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers.

U.S. INCREASING LATIN AMERICA 'INTERFERENCE'

PM140801 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 May 87 Second Edition p 5

["Commentator's Column" by Vitaliy Korionov: "Unrelenting"]

[Text] The Washington administration is continuing to obstinately follow its course of crude interference in the Latin American peoples' internal affairs, imposing its will and diktat on them. The creation of conditions for the overthrow of the government of sovereign Nicaragua remains one of the central items on the U.S. political agenda.

The Pentagon is increasing its military activities in Central America. The U.S.-Honduran "Solid Shield-87" military maneuvers are still in full swing and new military exercises -- Operation Camile -- have already started in the Caribbean. [paragraph continues]

They involve U.S. and British Army subunits and the armed forces of Jamaica and seven East Caribbean countries which make up the so-called "regional security forces," put together in 1982 on Washington's initiative.

It is claimed that the purpose of the exercises is to "train army subunits for actions in natural disaster conditions." But this camouflage will deceive no one. It is another show of U.S. military force to small countries independent of it for the purpose of fueling tension in the Caribbean basin.

The spearhead of this policy is directed primarily against Nicaragua, which is courageously upholding its freedom and independence. Any method will do, including the most criminal. It has just become known that United States has been plotting to murder Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Washington also is making new efforts to "establish order" in the lair of the contras, whose leaders are fighting over U.S. dollars.

The matter is not confined to the Central American region. It is reported that weapons and food have been delivered to Bolivia by U.S. transport aircraft for U.S. soldiers who will be participating in joint U.S.-Bolivian military exercises starting on 11 May. It has been officially announced that the task of the 300 U.S. servicemen who will be arriving in Bolivia will be to "train Bolivian soldiers in the tactics involved in putting down uprisings."

But this also is far from the whole truth. Recently U.S. servicemen have been appearing with increasing frequency in one Latin American country or another on various pretexts. For example, 200 U.S. soldiers in Ecuador are giving "assistance to the struggle against drug dealers" and, at the same time, building airfields and transport communications.... The real aim of these actions is to instill in the population of the Latin American countries the idea that the presence of Yankees in military uniforms on their land is something normal. But we will see...

Yes, in fact, the leopard does not change its spots.

PRAVDA INTERVIEWS JUSTICE MINISTER ON ELECTIONS

PM150730 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 87 Second Edition pp 3, 6

[Interview with USSR Minister of Justice B.V. Kravtsov by G. Ovcharenko and A. Chernyak under the rubric "Preparing for the Elections": "The Authority of the Court: The USSR Minister of Justice Answers Pravda Readers' Questions" -- date, place of interview not stated]

[Text] "In the name of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic..." "In the name of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic..." Those are the words with which judges begin to pronounce sentences.

The court has a special place in the Soviet state. It alone can deem a person guilty of a crime or end a civic dispute with its decision. People's judges and assessors hold a special position in the exercise of justice. They are independent, subordinate only to the law. Preparations are now under way for the elections of people's judges, which will take place 21 June, and the elections of assessors are nearing completion. The election campaign has been a searching examination of all the work of the law enforcement organs, and first and foremost the people's courts. Our correspondents talked with USSR Minister of Justice B.V. Kravtsov about the course of preparations for the elections.

[Interviewer] Boris Vasilyevich, our readers ask, what are the particular features of the present election campaign and what demands are made on the future judges and people's assessors?

[Kravtsov] The authority of the court depends above all on the authority of the people elected to it. They should be characterized by political maturity, moral irreproachability, a combination of a high degree of professional training and civic courage, incorruptibility, and a keen sense of justice. We are therefore taking the most resolute measures to protect the courts against unworthy people who are incapable of resisting outside "pressure," time-servers or, for instance, people who do not want to break the long-established, fossilized stereotypes and seek and find ways of radically improving quality and efficiency. To put it briefly, here we, also need a "mental restructuring," a tireless quest for new avenues in work, an assessment of events and phenomena in the light of the development of society's social life, the widening of democracy, and the improvement of legislation. The courts must impeccably observe the constitutional principles of comprehensiveness and objectivity, the presumption of innocence, the oppenness of judicial proceedings, the socialist rule of law, and the equality of citizens before the law and the court.

Much has already been done in this direction. In recent years there has been a marked reduction in the number of judicial verdicts and judgments that have been repealed or amended.

[Interviewers] All the same, the readers' mail indicates that judicial errors do occur; someone's fate is behind every one of them.

[Kravtsov] Every such mistake is an extraordinary occurrence from which we try to learn the appropriate lessons. Only the other day a session of the ministry collegium examined the question of gross violations of the rule of law by the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Court Criminal Cases Collegium. Strict measures were adopted. In particular Azerbaijan Supreme Court member A. Kafarov was removed from his post and party proceedings taken against him.

This instance is, of course, exceptional. But other errors which occur in the courts do not go unnoticed. Exactingness toward court workers is increasing every year. Not everyone passes the principled examination: Last year alone 14 judges were relieved of their posts as having failed to cope with the work, 76 were recalled for defamatory offenses and abuses, and 837 judges were subjected to disciplinary proceedings.

We are therefore now devoting great attention to the selection and education of cadres. We set about direct preparations for the elections approximately a year ago. The reserve for nominations to the post of judge was studied again. All the same, at the first stage of the organization of the election campaign the ministry was not able to sufficiently exert effective influence on the matter in the localities, and in some places a paperwork style prevailed. The USSR Ministry of Justice apparatus did not escape this shortcoming itself. To avoid "drowning in paperwork" again, we have sent groups of workers to practically all the regions with this task: examine on the spot -- the republic, oblast, and rayon and in the specific court -- what has already been done and what should be rectified, improved, redone, and, most importantly, where concrete assistance should be given. I wish to stress that we are devoting the main attention in the election campaign to stepping up and increasing the role of the labor collectives in nominating and discussing candidates for the post of judge.

[Interviewers] PRAVDA readers inquire about the composition of the candidates nominated for the post of judge. L. Sarnov from Novosibirsk, quoting the well-known rejoinder by a certain literary character, writes: "But pray, who are the judges?"

[Kravtsov] I have already noted they are authoritative people, trained specialists. A check in the localities showed 75 percent of people currently working as judges could be recommended for election for a new term. Among those being recommended for the first time, preference is given to workers on juridical organs who have already been working there for at least 2-3 years. The courts will draw recruits from among the best investigators, prosecutors, legal advisers, and attorneys. We see this as the guarantee of more rapid assimilation of "innovations" in judicial work, and ultimately an improvement in its quality.

Of the judges who will not be recommended for election for a new term, 22 percent were deemed unworthy of confidence because of poor quality judicial work, instances of violations of the rule of law, or conduct unworthy of the lofty title of judge. To some extent we have already rid ourselves of these people. As an example, let me cite the early dismissal from their posts of I. Martynov, people's judge at the Kirovskiy Rayon People's Court, and V. Balashova, people's judge of the Baumanskiy Rayon People's Court in Moscow. They committed violations of the rule of law in the examination of criminal cases. I do not think there is any need to return yet again to the instances of early recall and punishment of many judges who committed gross violations of the socialist rule of law in Vietebsk and Rostov Oblasts and a number of oblasts of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. This has already been reported in the press.

It is noteworthy that in half the cases this assessment coincided with the opinion expressed by citizens in letters and during the judges' reports to voters and at meetings in the juridical organs' own collectives. Openness, as you can see, is in action.

At present, unlike in past elections, the reports of judges and people's assessors are being presented actively and in good time in the labor collectives. Here is just one example.

Recently G. Shumskiy, member of the USSR Ministry of Justice Collegium, took part in a meeting of the labor collective of the Lobnya locomotive depot in Moscow Oblast, where A. Kidinova, chairman of the Lobnya City People's Court, gave her report. Aleksandra Mikhaylovna spoke not only of the purely professional work of the court, as used to happen, but also analyzed in depth the state of law and order in the city and in the depot collective, revealed unresolved problems, and put forward proposals and recommendations aimed at eliminating shortcomings. T. Leyko, secretary of the Council of People's Assessors, and other assessors also addressed the workers in the same vein. A concerned discussion took place at the meeting of urgent questions which are still being resolved too slowly in the city and the depot. Contact system team leader B. Morozov, worker S. Tyumin, and others noted what is positive in the judges' work, but also voiced a number of serious criticism of them. In their opinion the struggle against drunkenness and juvenile crime is not yet being adequately waged in the city. The desire was expressed for reports to be presented to the labor collectives more frequently. Such meetings are certainly useful to everyone.

The oblast courts will now be staffed mainly from the ranks of the best people's judges. It is particularly important that we have succeeded in stopping the practice that had become established in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and certain other places, where the composition of oblast (city) courts was renewed 50-60 percent on the basis of young people and poorly trained specialists. Need one say what damage that did to justice?! This time lawyers with judicial experience will also be nominated to oblast courts to replace the outgoing judges.

[Interviewers] Letters also discuss the people's assessors. There are various views here. Some people, like V. Novitskiy from Dnepropetrovsk or Muscovite I. Samoylenko, write that the number of assessors should be increased, while others, like, for instance, V. Bronnikov from Leningrad, believe they are not needed at all, saying that there is evidence of formalism...

[Kravtso] We receive similar letters. This year 850,000 people's assessors will be elected -- 107,000 more than before. It is no exaggeration to say that this force, together with the professional judges, is called upon to put justice into practice in our country in the people's name.

I believe the skeptics are wrong when they claim peremptorily that the institution of people's assessors, which, incidentally, was introduced in Lenin's time, has become a formal appendage to a professional judge, and is all but obsolete. Of course, there are many cases where people's assessors conduct themselves passively, do not know the rudiments of jurisprudence, and naturally fail to exert due influence on the rendering of a just verdict or a well founded judgment. But this happens where the elections of assessors have taken place formally, without critical discussion of the candidacies, and where there is no painstaking work with the elected assessors. So here much depends above all on you and me.

A USSR Supreme Court plenum recently adopted a resolution on compliance with legislation governing the participation of people's assessors in the administration of justice. It is aimed at further improving the work of the courts and deepening democratic principles in their activity, with the participation of people's assessors, and it clarifies many questions of the assessors' powers in the examination of civil and criminal cases. In the course of the elections continuity is maintained and those assessors are recommended for election who have in the preceding years displayed activeness and principle and acquired appropriate legal experience enabling them to make correct judicial decisions based on comprehensive study of the case materials.

Concerning the concrete measures being adopted by the USSR Ministry of Justice to increase the role of people's assessors in the court, I can say that legislative proposals have been drawn up for precisely this purpose.

But that does not mean that everything has already been done to increase the assessors' prestige and the effectiveness of their work. We are well aware of that, and are prepared to consider any other proposals.

[Interviewers] Incidentally, there is no shortage of such proposals. Readers propose, for instance, establishing a differentiated composition of the court according to the nature and complexity of the cases under consideration. Others call into question the need to elect judges at all: This, they say, makes the judge dependent on local organs. If, for instance, a judge was always principled and did not follow the rules of "telephone law," he might not be recommended for the next term.

[Kravtsov] Indeed, such proposals have been put forward before, and they exist now. We are all clearly aware that these and similar considerations are dictated by concern about the further strengthening of the rule of law and the strictest observance of citizens' rights and legitimate interests. Proposals of this kind merit attentive consideration.

It must be remembered Soviet legislation contains a range of procedural guarantees capable of really ensuring the inviolability of person and the observance of every citizen's rights and freedoms. Let me mention some of them. The law prescribes that the court, like the organs of inquiry and preliminary investigation, fully and objectively study the circumstances of the criminal case. The accused or defendant should have the rights that are granted to him in defense of his interests explained to him: to present his case, submit petitions and pleas to the investigator or judge, to have a defense attorney, and so forth. It is also of considerable importance that the accused has the right to present his case in his native language and use the services of an interpreter.

An important guarantee is the constitutional principle of the independence of judges and their subordination only to the law, the openness of judicial proceedings, and the secrecy of the deliberations room. These and many other principles contained in the law, if observed, guarantee the protection of the individual's rights.

Analysis of judicial errors and the results of investigations into instances of unjust decisions show they become possible only where deviations from the prescriptions of the law are allowed to occur and where the court does not subject the conclusions of the preliminary investigation organs to thorough, comprehensive checks.

These violations have specific causes: insufficient firmness in upholding the law, poor professional training, and in some cases irresponsibility on the part of individual judicial workers. It follows from this that the strengthening of the body of judges and the election of principled, morally irreproachable judges will certainly help eradicate violations of the rule of law in the exercise of justice.

The democratization of judicial proceedings, it is our conviction, lies not in mechanically increasing the numerical strength of the court, but in consistent observance of the constitutional principles of justice. [paragraph continues]

But I believe it is useful once again to examine proposals on the numbers of assessors for individual, more complex cases. As for the proposal on appointing, rather than electing, judges, it seems to us that in the conditions of the expansion of openness and democracy this would be a retrograde step. The judge cannot become a civil servant. Lenin's First Decree on the Courts, as well as abolishing the "general judicial statutes" which formerly existed, proclaimed the principle of "direct democratic elections" of local judges. Departing from this principle would mean distancing the people from participation in the formation of our people's courts.

With a view to ensuring the real independence of judges, a whole range of measures is needed. The mere proclamation of this principle is not enough. It is necessary to step up exactingness and responsibility for any interference of any kind in judicial activity. Such things still happen. For instance, N. Anisimov, first secretary of Urzhumskiy Raykom in Korov Oblast, twice "had a talk" with people's judge V. Motashkov to persuade him to deal "more carefully" with a particular criminal case and "take into account" the identity of the defendants in determining their punishment. Then, for the same purpose, court chairman A. Sokolova was summoned to the raykom. The judges did not yield to pressure, and pronounced sentence in accordance with the law. But the very fact of interference in judicial activity has yet to receive a principled party assessment.

Considerable significance in the observance of the principle of the independence of judges is attached to increasing the role of justice organs in resolving questions connected with releasing judges from their duties, and also selecting candidates for recommendation for election. We have prepared corresponding proposals.

[Interviewers] Citizens' respect for the law and the authority of the court largely depends on the conditions in which the judges work. However, as V. Chereda writes from Tyumen Oblast, these conditions still leave much to be desired....

[Kravtsov] Yes, there are many problems here, which must be speedily resolved. From the premises in which justice is performed to the businesslike atmosphere in which the trial is conducted and the external appearance and standard of behavior of the judges and people's assessors themselves. Unfortunately many people are found wanting here. We have drawn up proposals to further improve procedural norms. Punctiliousness and strict observance of regulations do not only increase the authority of the court, they have a tremendous influence on all those present.

The USSR Ministry of Justice and the union republic ministries of justice are doing much to improve the quality of work with cadres and ensure their correct placing and education. We are preparing proposals to rectify the numerical strength of judges in individual regions, where necessary. Measures are being adopted to provide the courts with duplicating and recording equipment, means of communication, transport, and suitable premises. All this will, I think, help to increase the effectiveness of the work of the people's courts and enhance their authority.

VASILYEV VIEWS ROLE OF SOVIETS IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS

PM151555 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 May 87 Second Edition p 3

[Article by Doctor of Juridical Sciences Professor V. Vasilyev under the rubric "Questions of Theory": "Soviets and the Development of Democracy"]

[Text] Restructuring, democracy, the soviets -- these concepts are indissolubly linked. [paragraph continues]

If the fate of restructuring depends on the development of democracy, the development of democracy is inconceivable without enhancing the prestige of the soviets, which constitute the political foundation of the USSR and the chief link of socialist self-management.

V.I. Lenin evaluated extremely highly the significance of the soviets in the revolutionary process and followed very intently the involvement of the broad working masses in their affairs. Many of our party's documents during the first years after October reflected Lenin's concern for increasings the soviets' influence on economic and cultural building and his ideas on the ways to develop these historically unprecedented democratic organizations. Even now Lenin's formulation of the question enables us to give more profound meaning to the social role and the functions of the organs of socialist democracy and to the prospects and directions for their forward movement.

Reflecting the nature of their power and the attitude to it of various classes and social groups, the soviets ensure the decisive participation in its realization of those who wield that power -- workers, peasants, the intelligentsia. Precisely the soviets enshrine the preconditions for the maximum development of democracy. The party sets the task of using these preconditions and of revealing and commissioning the tremendous creative potential of the organs of people's power.

The Leninist priciple of combining legislation, management, and monitoring, which expresses the Marxian thesis of representative establishments as "working corporations" of a socialist type, is essentially the organizational formula for the soviets' sovereignty. It must find quite specific manifestations in the realization of the soviets' powers connected with forming executive and management organs, solving questions of economic and sociocultural building, and monitoring the fulfillment of decisions and the activities of state organs.

Take, for example, the formation of organs of management. According to the Constitution, the soviets must create all the most important subdivisions of the state apparatus. They do so but frequently in a formal manner. The practice of forming ispolkoms and approving leaders of their departments and administrations at the first sessions of the soviets of each convocation is characteristic. A ritual has been observed for decades which prevents deputies not only from nominating their own candidacy but also from voicing an opinion of those persons proposed for leading posts by local party committees.

In general, why not ascertain the viewpoint of deputies not on one but on several candidates nominated for a vacancy? Why not establish a procedure whereby the vote on these candidates would not be open, as now, but secret? I am sure that this would not only help to avoid mistakes in forming organs of management but would also enhance the responsibility of officials to the soviets. It is also worth thinking about widening the very circle of officials elected by representative organs of power by means of the leaders of apparatus subdivisions, who are now appointed.

Of course, the number of questions, including cadre questions, tackled by the soviets cannot grow endlessly. The essence of restructuring consists not only nor even so much in this. The soviets will only get their second wind when they do not participate formally but to the point in the organization of all the revolutionary changes filling our life today.

"We will not come to socialism without a struggle," Lenin pointed out. "But we are ready for the struggle, we have begun it, and we will see it through to the end with the help of the apparatus called the soviets. If we submit to the conflicts that arise to be judged by the soviet of workers' and soldiers' deputies, any question will be resolved easily" (Complete Collected Works, Vol 35, p 276). What firm faith in the creative strength of the soviets! Yet that was said in January 1918. We must be all the more confident about the soviets' tremendous potential now -- under conditions of built socialism, when they unite millions of politically conscious people who are devoted to communist ideals and are capable of running state affairs competently.

At the same time, let us be realists -- the soviets will hardly tackle, even in the long term, the primary elaboration of many urgent problems (not their formulation, where they can do far more, but precisely their elaboration) or the preparation of corresponding draft decisions (economic and social development plans, for example). If this is possible, it is only so for local organs of power -- village, settlement, city (in small cities). It is not within the power of the soviets at other levels to do this, and they do not need to tackle such work. It is a question of something else -- of deputies' more profound, comprehensive, and skilled evaluation of documents submitted to the soviets for approval. For the formalism which has accumulated in the work of the soviets and their failure in a number of cases to examine properly major problems of economic and cultural life give rise to a tendency toward technocratic approaches. Full use is not made of a ready and essentially efficient mechanism which can optimally ensure the social thrust of the most important decisions. This must on no account be tolerated. Here it is necessary to create conditions for deputies to analyze in detail all the pluses and minuses of the decisions being prepared and to study them from the viewpoint of how they embody the interests of different sections of the population and the people as a whole.

In this regard the temporary release of deputies from their main job to fulfill duties in the soviet is assuming every greater significance. Legislation in recent years reveals a tendency to broaden this opportunity chiefly for deputies of supreme soviets. It is perfectly justified, if, of course, you bear in mind the unshakability of the Leninist principle of socialist representation -- while elected to soviets, deputies continue to work in their own collectives.

It is hard to say now precisely how much time deputies need for the really informal running of affairs in the soviet. Our sociologists and students of statecraft are called upon to answer this question as applied to soviet deputies at different levels. They must assist practice in the elaboration of mechanisms and methods to ensure the deputies' skilled examination (at sessions, in permanent and temporary commissions, in preparatory groups, and so forth), of urgent problems of state, economic, and sociocultural building, with reliance on public opinion. Efficient, proven procedures for recording deputies' conclusions and suggestions and resolving possible disagreements between deputies and the organs preparing draft decisions are also needed. In short, it is necessary to scientifically ensure the soviets' effective work in examining and solving the problems advanced by life itself. In this it is very useful to take into account both the positive experience of our soviets and of representative establishments in the fraternal socialist countries and everything of value in the organizational practice of parliamentary and municipal organs.

The development of the soviets as "working corporations" presupposes expanding their monitoring activity. The question of making systematic use everywhere of the democratic monitoring institutions provided for in legislation remains on the agenda.
[paragraph continues]

Sessions of supreme soviets -- of the USSR and of the union republics -- are still virtually devoid of reports from the governments (during the first years of Soviet power such reports were regularly heard at soviet congresses). Reports are rarely given to the soviets by leaders of sector and functional organs of management. Deputies' requests are not such a frequent phenomenon (over the past few years there has not been a single request made at USSR Supreme Soviet sessions).

Yet, it must not be a question primarily of increasing the mass of monitoring. Reports for reports' sake are not needed, and requests are no use if they are planned and organized in advance by ispolkoms. They are for appearances, and little else. What is more, they divert deputies from really urgent problems and from the struggle against bureaucratism, red tape, and inattention toward people's needs.

With rare exceptions, the deadlines for ispolkom reports are now being observed in all local soviets. But draft decisions are still prepared, as a rule, by the apparatus and mainly incorporate what suits those doing the reporting.

All this indicates that inertia of thinking, which hinders work under conditions of developing democracy, is too considerable and that lack of faith in the strength and potential of the people's elected representatives is too great. Some deputies have reconciled themselves to their secondary role in the soviet and grown accustomed to the formal fulfillment of state duties. This means that in the soviets, as everywhere, it is necessary to enhance the role of the human factor and to attract to them people who are profoundly aware of the need for changes, who are capable of fulfilling complex deputies' duties, and who are ready to boldly break with inertia and routine and creatively pursue the party line.

The need to improve the activities of deputies on permanent commissions is particularly pressing. They frequently act as simple assistants of departments and administrations. Of course, this is also necessary. But in many cases it is far more useful to make a businesslike analysis of the work style of executive organs. A look at their practice through the eyes of deputies devoid of a departmental approach, an exacting and fair assessment of this practice -- all this enhances the efficiency of the apparatus' efforts.

As the chief link in socialist self-management, the soviets are called upon to ensure its wide front and scope. This is manifested not only in the activities of deputies. Millions and tens of millions of citizens directly participate in the work of the soviets and influence it through the system of deputies' mandates and reports to voters and through discussion of the draft decisions of organs of power, as members of mass public organizations in contact with the soviets, as well as the numerous organs of public initiative being set up around local soviets and their apparatus, and so forth. By the beginning of last year the aktiv of local organs of power embraced more than 32 million people. But we do not just need "coverage." The most important thing is the population's active, interested impact on the processes of economic and social development.

Soviet elections serve as a powerful means of incorporating working people's interests in the mechanism of state leadership. Unfortunately, substantial shortcomings have accumulated in the conduct of election campaigns. Back in the twenties, when the first wide soviet elections were held following the end of the civil war, the party warned against letting them become boring and against attempts by some workers to "simplify" the election procedure. M.I. Kalinin wrote at the time: "All who are able to conduct an election campaign very smoothly and draw up their lists calmly, without debate or particular tension, essentially do not fulfill the political task entrusted to them." [paragraph continues]

People must see that "an election campaign is not some theatrical, artificially created performance...but focuses their vital interests."

These ideas were contained in the instructional documents of those years. Apparatus methods then predominated in the conduct of election campaigns. Theories appeared, according to which the nomination of candidates in precise accordance with the number of seats was accounted for by the specific nature of the one-party system and almost by the very nature of socialist democracy.

In fact, socialist democracy certainly does not deny the principled possibility of electing deputies from among several candidates. The essence lies in the specific historical conditions. As is known, in the first stages of socialist building in our country there were limitations on suffrage -- exploiter elements were excluded from the election process, while the working class enjoyed certain advantages. Taking into account the exceptional importance of the election campaign as a political school for the working masses, the party strove for the greatest possible activeness among voters. In some cases members of village and city soviets were elected from among several candidates. However, the extension of that practice and the establishment of contentiousness as a principle would have meant shifting the class struggle into the electoral plane. That was ruled out under conditions of a small working class and a scattered working peasantry and under conditions of capitalist encirclement.

By the mid-thirties, with the building of the foundations of socialism, limitations on electoral rights were abolished. The 1937 legislation provided for a procedure whereby several candidates could be included on the voting paper. But that practice was not used because of circumstances of a subjective nature. Moreover, the opportunities for nominating and discussing not one but many candidacies at the preliminary stage too -- prior to inclusion on the voting papers -- were limited.

There are no grounds for associating this with the special features of the one-party system or with the existence of a single election platform of the bloc of communists and non-party people. No, we do not choose a political line during an election campaign. In fact, it was chosen long ago by the Soviet people. We have evolved a strong, unbreakable public unity. However, it certainly does not signify a monotony of people's opinions and interests or rule out but, on the contrary, presupposes a competition of minds and talents. Under these conditions the significance of nominating several candidacies for one place consists in granting the voters themselves an opportunity to decide directly which of the candidates is best capable of implementing CPSU policy, embodying the people's interests, and fulfilling lofty state duties. To a considerable degree this is precisely the essence of the guideline of the 27th CPSU Congress and the Central Committee January (1987) Plenum on improving the electoral practice and system.

During the preparations for the local soviet elections measures are being elaborated collectively to further deepen the democratism of our electoral system. We must only prevent relapses into the old methods of organizing elections. These do, unfortunately, exist. In some places, for example, people have taken a formal appraoch to the nomination of several candidates, regarding this as an end in itself, although it must be a means of really broadening and deepening self-management principles and developing the voters' initiative and a democratic method of selecting those who are capable of raising the soviets' work to a new level.

The upcoming elections must help to make better use of the most important democratic institutions for resolving the great and complex tasks of accelerated economic and social development. They must give a boost to the soviets' activities aimed at implementing our party's policy and the will of the people's masses.

RAYON HALTS, RESUMES MULTISEAT ELECTION CAMPAIGN

PM011551 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Apr 87 First Edition p 1

[Correspondent P. Nikitin report: "Misfire. Preelection Meetings Suspended in a Yaroslavl Oblast Rayon."]

[Text] Meetings to nominate candidate deputies in the multiseat okrugs of Gavrilov-Yamskiy Rayon were proceeding. Suddenly an instruction to suspend the preelection campaign was received from the party raykom. Why?

Here is how Yu. Polozkov, chief of the Organizational Department, explains the raykom's stance:

"By no means everything had gone smoothly. There was a great deal of formalism, administration by decree, and stage management. In other words, people were taking the well trodden path. This is why it was decided to say 'Stop!', so as not to discredit the new election system from the very beginning."

True, there were mistakes. How did the election campaign unfold? It followed the course rehearsed over many years. For instance, slogans were put up at agitation posts, and then what? The agitation workers sat around, twiddling their thumbs, waiting for the election campaign to enter the final stage. Yet an experiment was supposed to be under way in the rayon. The agitation teams' job is not simply to verify the electoral roll. It is necessary to explain the essence of the new system to people and to help them best determine their choice.

When I talked to workers at the Zarya Sotsializma flax combine I found that most of them had not heard that the elections in the rayon were organized along new lines.

There were quite a few party and soviet officials in the rayon who, seeming afraid of trusting collectives, tried to foist their own candidates on them or simply "doled out" information culled from questionnaires when nominating candidates. The election campaign certainly needs to be guided, but not with a wagging finger but by instilling in people a sense of responsibility for their choice and explaining the qualities desirable in a candidate. No attempt was made to do anything of this sort at the Shopsha Sovkhoz or other collectives. The candidates were nominated "from above," speakers rattled off their speeches from their notes, and a mechanical vote followed.

During the discussion of nominations in Stavotino village the candidates' labor successes and discipline were discussed. That was as far as it went. However, are these qualities really enough to guarantee that the people's deputies will worthily represent the people's interests in the soviets? What about social commitment, principledness, the ability to defend people's interests? These are important qualities in a future deputy. It is these qualities that should be discussed.

This prompted the raykom officials to suspend the election campaign for a time, to enable people to organize it properly.

The pause taken in the rayon was put to the best possible use. [paragraph continues]

Party raykom secretaries and rayispolkom leaders attended meetings held in collectives, and in lively conversations with the people tried to find out how they assess the election campaign and what shortcomings they see. The views of voters and organizers of preelection meetings were submitted for discussion by secretaries of primary party organizations and rural soviet chairmen and secretaries, who met for this purpose at the party raykom. In short, a plan of specific actions was worked out to liven up the election campaign....

I called the party raykom. The telephone was answered by Yu. Polozkov, chief of the Organizational Department:

"The preelection meetings have resumed, the discussions are much more heated."

PLANT WORKERS REJECT PARTY-BACKED CANDIDATES

PM141201 [Editorial Report] MOSCOW KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 1987 front-pages under the leadline "Deciding Vote" a 550-word report by A. Volokhov on the election of two local soviet deputies at the Pavlovsk Repair Plant in Altay Kray. At a plant meeting workers rejected the two candidates put forward by a "triumvirate" comprising the plant director, the party organization secretary, and the acting chairman of the trade union committee, in favor of two candidates of their own whom they considered "more suitable." One of the workers' candidates dropped only 8 votes out of a total of almost 300. Volokhov states that the plant collective exhibited "a certain satisfaction." But, he points out, it was "not along the lines of 'we won'; rather it was a healthy 'we nominated someone.'" The plant director stated that he liked the collective's "independence." Volokhov concludes that if the elected candidates do not turn out well, it will be up to the plant workers themselves to "rectify their own (!) decision."

PRAVDA REMINDS READERS OF LENIN'S TASKS OF PRESS

PM081401 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 May 87 Second Edition p 1

[A. Karpychev and A. Chernyak article under the rubric "Learning from Lenin": "Closer to Life, More Attention" -- first three paragraphs are reader's letter; passages within slantlines published in boldface]

[Text] In the 5 May edition of the newspaper it would be appropriate to publish V.I. Lenin's article "On the Nature of Our Newspapers" or even just excerpts from it.

It seems to me that it would be very appropriate to turn to Vladimir Ilich during the present restructuring. Just listen: "Less political blather. Fewer intellectual arguments. Get closer to life. Pay more attention to how the worker and peasant masses are /actually/ building something /new/ in their everyday work. More /verification/ of how /communist/ these new things are"!

A. Aventyuk, shipbuilding engineer, not a party member, Nikolayev.

What should a newspaper be like today? Both the readers and we journalists are constantly turning to V.I. Lenin's letters, documents, and works for advice. No, their thought and content do not age, they reliably serve party journalism. But we must openly admit that we still make skillful and persistent use of by no means all this priceless wealth.

"There is nothing I want more, nothing I have dreamed of as much as of the possibility of writing for the workers," Vladimir Ilich wrote. There is a very close connection between this confession and the creation of PRAVDA, the first worker newspaper.

Lenin likened a newspaper to the scaffolding that is put up around a building under construction. It marks the outlines of the structure, and helps the construction workers allocate their work and survey the overall results achieved by organized labor. According to Vladimir Ilich, a newspaper is not only a collective propagandist and collective agitator but also a collective organizer.

Vladimir Ilich defined the tasks of revolutionary journalism: "We must constantly work as publicists -- write the history of our time...." He explains in the most detailed way how to write and why to write: "...try to write in such a way that our chronicles do what they can to help the direct participants in the movement and the proletarian heroes there, at the scene of the action; write in such a way as to facilitate the expansion of the movement and a conscious choice of the means, ways, and methods of struggle capable of producing the greatest and most durable results with the smallest effort."

Great October created a new type of newspaper. There had been no such newspapers before. In the first version of his article "The Next Tasks of Soviet Power" V.I. Lenin put forward the task of "transforming the press from an organ primarily reporting the political news of the day to a serious organ for the economic education of the masses of the population." He gives pride on place to labor questions "in their directly practical terms." For it is precisely labor organization that "is the most important, fundamental, and topical question of all social life."

Lenin called on journalists to acquaint the population "with exemplary organization of matters" and to seek to ensure that all working people gain "practical results regarding increasing labor productivity, saving manpower, and saving products...." This must form "the content of most of the material in our Soviet press...."

The article "On the Nature of Our Newspapers" sets out a whole work program for journalists. Lenin is concerned by the fact that the nature of our newspapers is still not changing as it should.

They contain far too much blather and far to little experience of building the new life. There are reams of facts on this subject. Less politics, he advises, and more economics. But economics not in the sense of "general" arguments, academic surveys, intellectual plans and other such rubbish -- which unfortunately is all too often precisely that: rubbish. But economics, which "we need in the sense of the collection, /painstaking verification/, and study of the facts of the real building of the new life." Vladimir Ilich advises analysis -- are there in fact any successes? "What exactly are these successes? Are they proven? They aren't tales, bragging, and intellectual promises ('it is being organized,' 'a plan has been drawn up,' 'we are mobilizing our forces,' 'we can vouch for it now,' 'the improvement is indisputable,' and other such charlatan phrases at which 'we' are such experts)? Where have the successes been achieved? How can we expand them?

Vladimir Ilich asks: Where is the blacklist of backward factories that are examples of disorder, disarray, filth, hooliganism, and parasitism? He answers: "There isn't one. But such factories do exist."

These sentences come from Lenin's pen: "In our country there is no businesslike, relentless, truly revolutionary /war against specific/ bearers of evil. [paragraph continues]

In our country there is not enough /education of the masses/ using living, specific models and examples from all areas of life, yet this is the main task of the press during the transition from capitalism to communism. We pay little attention to the /everyday/ side of life within factories, villages, and regiments, where new things are built most of all, where attention, publicity, public criticism, persecution of the worthless, and calls to learn from the good are needed most of all."

His words ring out like an alarm bell, like an instruction to journalists:

"Less political blather. Fewer intellectual arguments. Get closer to life. Pay more attention to how the worker and peasant masses are /actually/ building something /new/ in their everyday work. More /verification/ of how /communist/ these new things are."

In "The Great Initiative" he again urges: "Less highfalutin phrases, more simple, everyday action and concern about poods of bread and coal!"

Vladimir Ilich paid great attention to openness [glasnost], and demanded a struggle be waged against every kind of rumor, conjecture, and misinterpretation of Soviet reality.

Lenin reminded journalists of the need to cover the most important events promptly and without delay and spoke repeatedly of the importance of improving literary skill.

Lenin's advice about a newspaper's relationship with its readers and on conduct is important for us. Here is some of his advance.

The reader values in a newspaper chiefly and above all its principledness.

Let workers write more widely to the newspaper, write as much as possible about their everyday life, their interests and their work....

A workers' newspaper is a workers' platform.

Uniformity of tone and lateness are incompatible with newspaper work.

A newspaper must seek and find the contacts it needs.

Less scathing language...more and more specificity in studying or experience, details, trifles, practice, businesslike experience, and absorption in real life....

To write about what is harmful without anger is to produce boring writing.

A newspaper must have the courage to admit its own mistakes. A corrected error disappears. An uncorrected one becomes a purulent sore.

Writing the history of our time...today that means writing about the revolutionary essence of the changes in Soviet society, about restructuring, and about the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development. That means assisting restructuring, defending restructuring, developing it and moving forward. That means being closer to life and closer to people.

SPECIAL HOSPITAL, WARDS PLANNED FOR AIDS PATIENTS

LD061400 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] "AIDS: Some Contentious and Uncontentious Opinions." This is the title of an article in the STROITELNAYA GAZETA. Approximately 2 years have passed since reports were reprinted about this new terrible disease from foreign publications on the pages of our mass circulation press. Nonetheless specialists believe that the general public has a false or incomplete idea of it. Therefore, evidently one cannot say there is no longer any need to repeat some of the knowledge about AIDS.

The total number of those that have fallen ill in our country is 32, but, as Academician Pokrovskiy believes, the real state of affairs will only become clear when mass check-ups are conducted. Although much is unclear about the origin and nature of the illness, medical specialists are drawing up measures to fight it. Thus it is planned to set up a special hospital in the very near future where AIDS patients -- wherever they live -- will be hospitalized, as well as special departments in hospitals for contagious diseases. Those people who are not ill but are infected with the AIDS virus will undergo compulsory out-patient check-ups. Certain administrative and quarantine measures are also necessary.

AIDS Prevention Measures

AU140942 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 12 May 87 p 4

[Article by Atanas Atanasov, Moscow correspondent: "The USSR Barrier Against An Insidious Disease"]

[Text] The alarms spreading all over the world with the reports of the spread of the "20th century plague," as AIDS is generally called, has extended to the Soviet Union as well. According to official data provided by the USSR Ministry of Health, 32 cases of AIDS have been diagnosed in the Soviet Union (30 of whom are foreigners). Let us make a comparison: according to WHO data, a total of 46,000 cases of AIDS are registered all over the world, three quarters of which are in the United States.

According to numerous statements by Academician Yevgeniy Chazov, minister of health, and by other authoritative scientists and experts, the chief concern in the USSR today is to prevent the disease from spreading. A comprehensive program for this end has been compiled and is now being carried out. Approximately 200,000 people have been examined. A system of diagnostic tests has been developed within a relatively short time.

On the basis of a certain understanding about the "channels" along which the disease runs, the direction of the system of preventive measures is obvious. Special clinical immunology laboratories have been set up in all large cities. A few dozen diagnostic laboratories attached to special clinics and blood transfusion centers have also been opened to screen all citizens "with increased risk factors" and all blood donors.

Health education for the people is considered to be very important and great attention is paid to it. People must be informed about the sources and the paths of infection, the preventive measures to be adopted against the disease, and the first clinical symptoms of it.

Soviet scientists and specialists are actively working on the development of a vaccine against this deadly virus. As a matter of fact, work in this direction started in the United States and other countries at an earlier stage. The importance of international cooperation in this field is particularly stressed here in the Soviet Union. Soviet medical experts have proposed to the WHO that it establish an international committee to coordinate scientific research in this particular area, develop the urgently needed vaccine, and organize an effective system of education and preventive measures. Uniting efforts worldwide will not only speed up a positive outcome of the fight against the "20th century plague," but it will set an example of a new way of thinking and will promote cooperation in connection with other global problems affecting mankind.

LITERARY CHAIRMAN ON PUBLISHING OF BULGAKOV NOVELS

LD081715 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1405 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 8 May (TASS) -- The first complete collection of Mikhail Bulgakov's works in the Soviet Union will be published in Moscow, Aleksandr Karaganov, chairman of the commission for the writer's literary legacy told a TASS correspondent.

The edition will consist of four to five volumes, which will include all Bulgakov's novels, his stories, essays, and also "Heart of a Dog" and "Diaboliad" which have not been published for a long time. The last volume will come out in 1990.

"We know collections of Bulgakov's works have been published abroad that are greater in volume than what has been allowed to be published in the USSR. However, it should be said that there are quite a few inaccuracies in those editions; there are works which are ascribed to Bulgakov," Karaganov noted.

The Soviet anthology of works is the result of the work of a large group of specialists, careful research into the writer's works, and his letters.

Mikhail Bulgakov's works have been published in the Soviet Union before. About 20 books have been published in the last 5 years alone. His more well-known novels are due for publication in the near future with a circulation of many millions. A collection of his plays, which has just come out, gives one an opportunity to acquaint oneself more fully with Bulgakov's creative work.

The memory of the well-known Soviet writer and dramatist is carefully preserved in the USSR. A museum is being set up in the Moscow apartment on Bolshaya Sadovaya Street where he lived for many years and which he described in his famous novel "Master and Margarita."

BRIEFS

SHIPS DEPART FOR ARCTIC -- The first convoy of ships of the Far Eastern fleet left for the Arctic. Among the convoy are two icebreaker cargo vessels -- Vasiliy Burkhanov and Anatoliy Kolesnichenko, carrying food, technological goods, building materials, and other cargo. In a couple of days these vessels will meet with the most powerful icebreakers in the Far East, icebreaker Yermak and Admiral Makarov to proceed independently on their journey without having to wait for the icebreaker Arktika. At the same time, a second convoy of ships will start its journey to the Arctic from Vladivostok and Nakhodka. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0000 GMT 17 May 87 LD]

LIGACHEV, NIKONOV DISCUSS FEED PROCUREMENT

LD151205 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 15 May 8

[Text] Reports have been heard in the CPSU Central Committee from the leaders of party and local Soviet organs of agro-industrial committees from the Kazakh and Moldavian SSR's, the Mordovian ASSR, the Amurt Volgograd, Kalinin, Omsk, Orenburg, Ryazan, Tambov Tyumen, and a number of other oblasts, on the organizational and political work on further developing livestock farming, and increasing production of fodder for public-sector livestock farming and for citizens' private household plots.

It was pointed out that the level of this work does not yet correspond to the requirements of the 27th party congress to accelerate the transfer of livestock farming and fodder production to an intensive path of development. Many collective and state farms in republics and oblasts are continuing as before to try to consolidate the fodder base chiefly by means of extending the sown areas in field fodder production, and are only slowly raising the yield of sown fodder crops. The productivity of natural fodder lands also remains low, and land improvement facilities on these are lagging behind.

Particular attention was given to implementation of measures aimed at improving fodder quality. Stress was laid upon the necessity to further improve the structure of the area sown to fodder, and to increase the proportion of high-protein sown crops -- rape, soya, perennial leguminous grasses, peas, vetch, lupins, and others -- and to ensure a substantial reduction in the consumption of grain for fodder purposes.

It was considered expedient to make a decisive change in the criteria for evaluating the work of managers and specialists on farms, agro-industrial associations and committees, in regard to consolidating the fodder base; and to take as the point of departure for this the fact that livestock farming needs not only tonnes of green mass, hay, silage, haylage and concentrates, but tonnes of high-energy fodder, dry matter, and digestible protein.

The USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee and USSR Central Statistical Administration have been instructed to draw up a new directive on taking account of the quantity and quality of fodder laid in.

With a view to improving the quality of feed, the need is emphasized for the strict maintenance of technology for the cultivation, procurement, storing and preparation of feeds for fattening purposes [skarmlivaniye]

Large claims are being made on the heads of oblasts and republics, the USSR State Committee for the Agro-Industrial Complex and also the ministers of the tractor and agricultural machine-building, machine-building for stockbreeding and fodder production, the motor vehicle, chemical and petrochemical industries, and other ministries and departments for failing to supply new machines, spare parts, chemical fodder preserving agents [khimicheskiye konservanty kormov] film [plenka] and other resources to agriculture on time.

Heads of ministries and departments are instructed to speed up the production and supply of these resources, to make up the backlog and improve their quality.

The attention of local bodies is drawn to the need to ensure the completion of the repair of equipment, and also the construction of fodder storehouses in every collective and state farm before the start of the fodder harvest, and the mastering of progressive technology for its procurement and storage.

There is a real opportunity at hand to fully provide farms with fodder storehouses in 2 to 3 years.

During the discussion on this question, the importance was stressed of broader use of economic-organizational and social factors to strengthen the fodder base for the production of meat and dairy products. Matters dwelled on included apportioning to fodder production a specialized commodity branch of industry [spetsializirovannaya tovarnaya otrasl], the introduction of various forms of team and family contracts for the procurement of fodder on the principle of financial autonomy, and the adoption of the tally [chekovaya] form of monitoring fodder consumption and the creation of better social, everyday, and cultural conditions for employees and the organization of effective socialist competition for fodder procurement.

With the objective of consolidating and further developing the positive trends of stockbreeding which have been determined since the May 1982 plenum of the CPSU Congress, the task has been set to provide every collective and state farm with a real upsurge in the production of quality feeds and to have as a minimum a 1-and-1/2-year supply of coarse and succulent high-quality fodder. All the organizational and political work of party committees, primary party organizations and economic bodies should be focused on solving this task.

The subject of increasing fodder production and improving its quality should constantly be in the pages of newspapers and in radio and television programs.

The heads of local bodies, ministries and departments of the USSR and executive officials of the CPSU Central Committee apparatus acquainted themselves with the organization, production, procurement, storage and fattening of fodder at the Gorkiy Kolkhoz in Moscow Oblast, and with the results of scientific research in the field of fodder and new fodder-procurement technology at the All-Union Vilyams Fodder Research Institute. The results of the study of this question were summed up in speeches by Comrade Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Comrade Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Grain-Loss Prevention Urged

LD151854 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Sharp questions connected with the forthcoming harvest of grains and feed crops, and also with supplying kolkhozes and sovkhozes with equipment, were considered today in the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee. Comrade Sizenko, first deputy chairman of the Committee, stressed the need to apply all efforts to prevent losses of grain and other agricultural output. Leaders of every oblast, kray, and republic should take measures to supply inhabitants with foodstuffs through production at local kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The central question at the moment is the procurement of feeds, harvesting of which has already begun in the south of the country. The task is being laid down to carry out hay-mowing in optimal time in order to gather the most nutritious feeds.

Participants in the conference stressed: At all farms specialized teams and team sections should be created on the basis of collective and family contracting. Particular attention should be paid to the preparation of storage facilities. A call was frequently heard at the conference in the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee for more work and less words and promises. It was recalled that last year many collectives adopted pledges to conduct the preparation of harvesting equipment in good time, mainly in the fall and winter. However, in many places these pledges have not been fulfilled. The quality of repairs has decreased. Work has slackened to restore worn-out assemblies and components. Participants in the conference in the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee stressed the need for increasing efficiency, order, and discipline in all team sections.

UKRAINE VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTION PROMOTED

AU140908 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 5 May 87 p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and Council of Ministers"]

[Excerpts] In taking the urgent measures mapped out by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers to step up the construction of oil-bearing seeds and vegetable oil, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and Council of Ministers have adopted an appropriate decision. The Ukrainian State Agro-Industrial Committee, Ministry of Grain Products, obkoms, raykoms, oblispolkoms, rayispolkoms, and agro-industrial committees and associations have been instructed to ensure that the production of oil-bearing seeds and the output of vegetable oil steadily increase, in conformity with the tasks set under the Ukrainian SSR Food Program.

For this purpose the instruction has been given to define for each farm the volumes of oil-bearing seeds to be sold in 1987-90, to assign and to concentrate the necessary resources for this, and to ensure that team, link, and family contracting is applied. Endeavors have to be made to radically reduce losses in oil-bearing seeds and in products made from them by renewing and strengthening the material-technical base of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and procuring and processing enterprises.

The adopted decision endorses the proposals worked out by the republic's State Agro-Industrial Committee with regard to the production volumes of intensively cultivated sunflower seeds, soybeans, rape, and castor beans. Instructions have been given to restore and expand sunflower seedlings at farms which have groundlessly reduced or given up sunflower cultivation, to more rapidly master rape production for seeds, and to significantly step up production of castor bean plants, soybeans, flax, and false flax. Scientific research institutes, their branches, experimental stations, and front-ranking farms are expected to create scientific production systems for cultivating oil bearing crops. [passage omitted]

Provisions have been made for oil production from corn, rice meal [risovaya muhka] and secondary resources of oil-bearing raw materials. [passage omitted]

It has been found expedient to inform kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other agricultural enterprises, as well as the appropriate ministries and departments that the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers had fixed the following procurement prices per metric tons of seeds in basic conditions: sunflower seeds, R350; rape, wild cabbage, oil bearing flax, mustard, and false flax seeds, R400; and soybeans, R450. These prices will be valid for purchasing the 1987 crops. [paragraph continues]

In 1987-90 kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other agricultural enterprises will be paid bonuses for oil-bearing seeds sold in excess of the average annual targets set for the 11th 5-year period amounting to 100 percent of procurement prices if they fulfill the state plan for selling oil-bearing seeds as a whole. Bonuses paid to farms which exceed the aforesaid targets, but fall short of the plan, will amount to 50 percent of procurement prices. [passage omitted]

After having fulfilled the plan for sales to the state, sovkhozes and other state agricultural enterprises are allowed to sell vegetable oil extracted from their own oil-bearing seed resources to organizations run by consumer societies at prices agreed upon, and also to sell at kolkhoz markets.

PAPER REVIEWS EARLY MAY WEATHER, CROP STATUS

PM161333 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 15 May 87 p 3

[Agrometeorologist O. Pisarenko report: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] On the whole, the average air temperature to the north of a line running through Kaliningrad, Smolensk, Kaluga, Penza, Kuybyshev, and Orenburg during the first 10 days of May was 2-5 degrees above the long-term average, in the Ukraine's southwest and southern oblasts it was 2-4 degrees below the long-term average, and in the remaining regions it was close to the long-term average.

Because of the cold weather prevailing in the European territory of the USSR in April, the development of almost all agricultural crops was delayed by 1-2 weeks.

Winter wheat has reached the stage of stem formation in most of the Ukraine, in Moldavia, the south of the Central Chernozem Region, the Lower Volga Valley, Belorussia, and the Baltic republics and has tillered in the more northern regions, and stem growth has started in the extreme south of the Ukraine and in the North Caucasus. Shoots of early spring grain crops have appeared in the Ukraine (except northeastern oblasts), the North Caucasus, and Belorussia. By the end of the first 10 days of May, and in regions lying south of a line running through Riga, Smolensk, Ivanovo, Kazan, and Orenburg, average soil temperature at a depth of 10 centimeters rose to 11-15 degrees, and to 15-17 degrees in places in the south of this territory, making it possible to start transplanting cabbage seedlings in the open, and to start sowing tender vegetable crops and transplanting tomato seedlings in most of Moldavia, the Ukraine, the North Caucasus, and the Lower Volga Valley.

Apricot, cherry, and early plum trees are in bloom and grape buds are swelling in Moldavia, the southern Ukraine, and the North Caucasus, while grape buds are opening up in the Crimea and the south of Kherson Oblast. Apple tree buds have started opening in the Baltic republics, Belorussia, the east Central Chernozem Region, the Ukraine, and the Lower Volga Valley, and even the first leaves have appeared in places.

The warm and dry weather which developed toward the end of April over the Transcaucasian republics prevailed throughout the first 10 days of May.

Precipitation in most regions did not exceed 10 millimeters. This weather was favorable for work and for the growth of agricultural crops. Spring crop, cotton, and cucumber shoots have appeared. Grapes have formed flower clusters.

Moderately warm weather with rainfall prevailed for most of the 10-day period over crop farming regions in West Siberia and most oblasts in the northern half of Kazakhstan. The sowing of spring grain crops and feed crops has started.

The flowering of fruit crops in Central Asian republics has finished, and is still going on only in southern Kazakhstan. Grapes have formed flower clusters and have started flowering in southern Turkmenia and Tajikistan. Tomatoes have formed side shoots and flower clusters, early-ripening cabbage varieties have started forming heads, and plants have reached maturity in early-planted sectors. The harvest is being gathered.

Cotton in southern regions of Turkmenia and Uzbekistan has produced its first one to three leaves, and shoots have appeared in most of the remaining regions. Alfalfa crops continued their flower cluster formation at a plant height of 35-60 centimeters and flowered in the southern part of the territory, and the first mowing was done at a plant height of 65-80 centimeters.

MEDIA COVERS 15-15 MAY AGRICULTURAL WORK

LD180038 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 15 to 16 May. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

15 May

Altay kolkhozes and sovkhozes are sowing 100,000 hectares of grain per day. On the whole, the productive area in the Kray, which is 1.2 million hectares, has been allocated to cereal production. (0130)

Sowing of grain crops has started in the Arkhangel Oblast. (?Useful) crops will be placed on around 800,000 hectares. (0330)

Sowing of early grain crops is in full swing in the central non-Chernozem Zone. Field work in Ryazan Oblast has gotten underway in complicated conditions this year: the grain acreage there is large, more or less 500,000 hectares, but the weather has limited the time available for work. (0320)

Spring crops have been sown on 800,000 hectares in Bashkiria, which is about one-third of the area. (0600)

Cotton sowing has been completed in Tajikistan somewhat later than planned because of the wet weather. (0600)

Sowing has begun on the second millionth hectare in Saratov Oblast with efforts concentrated on spring wheat, sunflower, sugar beet, and rape. (0714)

Cotton sowing has ended in Tajikistan. Seeds have been sown on over 300,000 hectares. (0714)

First cutting of alfalfa and natural grasses has begun in Azerbaijan. (0714)

Spring field work is in full swing in Latvia's fields. Sowing of spring crops has virtually been completed in Kurzeme; altogether more than 80 percent of acreage planned has been sown with spring crops. Potato planting is next in line; almost half of allocated acreage has already been planted. (1330)

16 May

In Altay, an area of over 2 million hectares will be taken up by wheat. (0000)

Machine operators of the Kazakh virgin lands have started large-scale field work. Yesterday they were still talking of selective work on the grain field; today already tens of thousands of units are carrying out moisture retention work, are dressing with mineral fertilizers, sowing perennial grasses, and in the southern rayon sowing is already starting of wheat, the main food crop. Because of the late spring sowing times have shifted this year, just as in most areas of the country. This year the area under spring crops in Tselinograd Oblast will be some 3 million hectares; one-third of it has been set aside for the intensive technology of wheat cultivation. The experience of last year has shown that expenditures on this technology are recouped with a considerable raise in yield. Last year frontranking farms obtained 1.5 to 2 times more grain than before from such tracts. (0200)

Machine operators of East Kazakhstan have begun sowing grain crops. The crops will take up an area of over 630,000 hectares. (0400)

Four-fifths of the area allocated to cereals have been sown in the Mordovian Autonomous Republic. (0600)

Rice sowing is proceeding well in the Kuban. Soil preparation work is being carried out at night, and rice has now been sown on about 80,000 hectares, or one-half of the available area. (1100)

A new combine harvester, the Don-1500 rotor, has been produced by the Taganrog Combine Harvester Works for use on corn and rice plantations. Five hundred such harvesters will be produced this year. Many of them will be deployed in Krasnodar Kray, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, and other regions of the country. (1100)

Farmers of Udmurtiya have sown the first 100,000 hectares of spring crops thus far. This year they plan to bring the total grain harvest up to 1.4 million metric tons. (1300)

The sowing of early-eared and pulse crops has ended on the Don. Taking into account the resowing of winter crops, seeds have been sown on over 2 million hectares. The sowing of millet, corn, and sunflowers is progressing. (1500)

MULTIPURPOSE LAUNCH VEHICLE ENERGIYA TESTED

LD161633 Moscow TASS in English 1619 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 16 TASS -- Flight and design tests have been started in the Soviet Union of the new powerful many-purpose launch vehicle Energiya intended to put into near-earth orbits both reusable orbital spaceships and large-size space vehicles for use in science and in the economy.

The two-stage multi-purpose launch vehicle has a launching mass of more than 2,000 tons and is capable of putting into orbit more than 100 tons of payload.

The first launching of that delivery vehicle was made from Baykonur Cosmodrome at 21 hours 30 minutes Moscow time on May 15.

After the engines of the first stage ended operation, it separated and landed in a pre-set area in Soviet Union's territory.

The second stage of the launch vehicle continued operation in strict conformity with the flight mission and put into an estimated point a full-size and weight mock-up of a satellite. After the separation from that mock-up, the second stage splashed down in a pre-set area of the Pacific.

The full-size and weight mock-up was to be put into a round the earth orbit by means of its own engine. Yet because of a faulty operation of its onboard systems the mock-up was not put into the pre-set orbit and splashed down in the Pacific.

In the process of the launching and flight of the launch vehicle the correctness was borne out of the design and technology, the high reliability of its design, engines of both stages and control systems. The equipment and apparatuses of the automated control of the launching complex functioned normally. The aims and objective of the first launching have been fully met.

Personnel of many research, design, production, building and assembly organizations and plants as well as military experts took part in creating and testing the many-purpose heavy launch vehicle of the new generation and the unique launching complex.

The successful start of the flight and design testing of the lauch vehicle Energiya is a major achievement of Soviet science and technology in the year marking the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. It opens up a new stage in the development of Soviet space rocket engineering and broad prospects for a peaceful exploration of outer space.

Tikhomirov Commentary

LD172101 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 17 May 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; political observer Aleksandr Tikhomirov commentary]

[Text] Hello, comrades! I have just returned from the Baykonur Cosmodrome. On 15 may this year, at 2130 Moscow time, all television cameras, both ours and the technical ones, were focussed on the launch. So it remains only to describe in words the story behind the pictures.

And this is how it was: First, there was a deathly silence at the observation point among the roughly 100 members of the State Commission, leading specialists, and party workers. Then a thunderous roar rolled over the steppes, and we were surprised how uneven the roar seemed. But then it was clear that at the moment of the launch thousands of cubic metres of water were released to cool the concrete. And the water muffled the noise.

Then isolated applause broke out: It was the builders of the launching pad who realized that their "baby" was fine and undamaged. Then I heard a voice: fantastic! fantastic! And incidentally, this was repeated by a man who in many ways made this project come true by virture of his own talents. And I could see a deputy minister anxiously smoking, hiding his cigarette in his fist, soldier's fashion, and a member of the State Commission, a short man, feeling his way for a chair, standing on it without diverting his gaze from the fiery spot in the sky. [video shows launching of Energiya]

This, then, was a moment that makes life worthwhile. Seconds, during which the tension and fatigue that had build up within people over the past 24 hours, months, and years began to ease as they reached their peak.

Well, we told you yesterday in the "Vremya" newscast about the main technical details of the launching of the new, powerful, all-purpose rocket-carrier from the Baykonur Cosmodrome. I would like to add just one detail in order to emphasize once more just how colossal this launch has been: Well, let's say, the heaviest loads that we have put into orbit in recent years have been orbital stations, such as Salyut and Mir -- 20 tonnes and more. So the new rocket-carrier, in terms of weight, can carry into orbit four or five such stations. It will be able to put into orbit, say, shuttle-type spacecraft, or huge modules that do not possess their own engines. In general, loads of differing purposes and of the most varied configuration within about 100 tonnes.

A lot more work is still required and further test flights lie ahead, but one may confidently say even today that the correctness of the designers' decisions and the utmost potential of our industry have been confirmed in practice. With the new carrier-rocket, we progress in practical terms to a new level in our space technology. At the observation point where I watched the launch, there were embraces and even tears of joy, and the people of the town of Leninsk -- the town of the workers from the cosmodrome -- also watched the launch tens of kilometres from the pad. Families with children went out on to the streets, climbed up balconies and on to roofs and shouted, hurrah! They shouted as though they were shouting not only for themselves but also for those who could not be there at that moment in the area of the cosmodrome, for those who, in different towns and at different factories, by their own conscientious and painstaking labors, had helped this miracle come true. Space technology is more and more becoming an important industry. And I would like to repeat the words of the general secretary when he visited Baykonur: Everything here belongs to the country, it is all ours -- for we can do it, we can do it!

end

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT

Contents unchanged

VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT

Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include:

- International Affairs
- Inter-African Affairs
- Central Africa
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  - Cameroon
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  - Malawi
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  - Namibia
  - Republic of South Africa
  - Reunion
  - Swaziland
  - Zambia
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- Western Africa
  - Benin
  - Burkina Faso
  - Cape Verde Islands
  - The Gambia
  - Ghana
  - Guinea
  - Guinea-Bissau
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  - Liberia
  - Mali
  - Niger
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